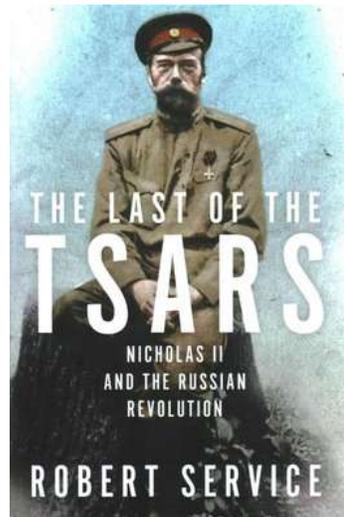
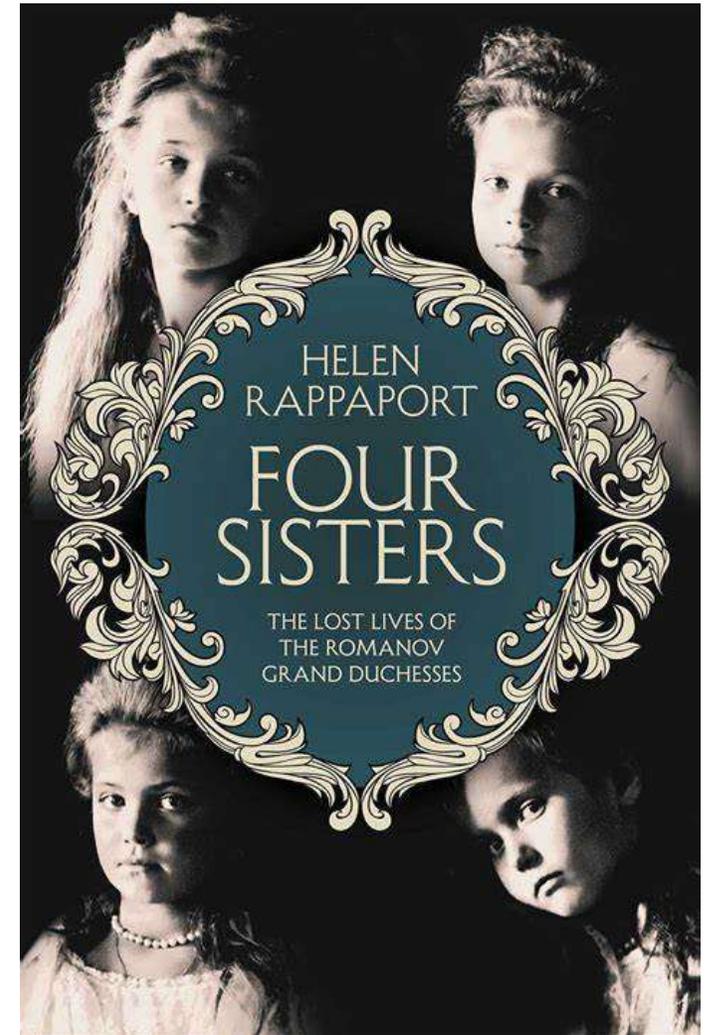
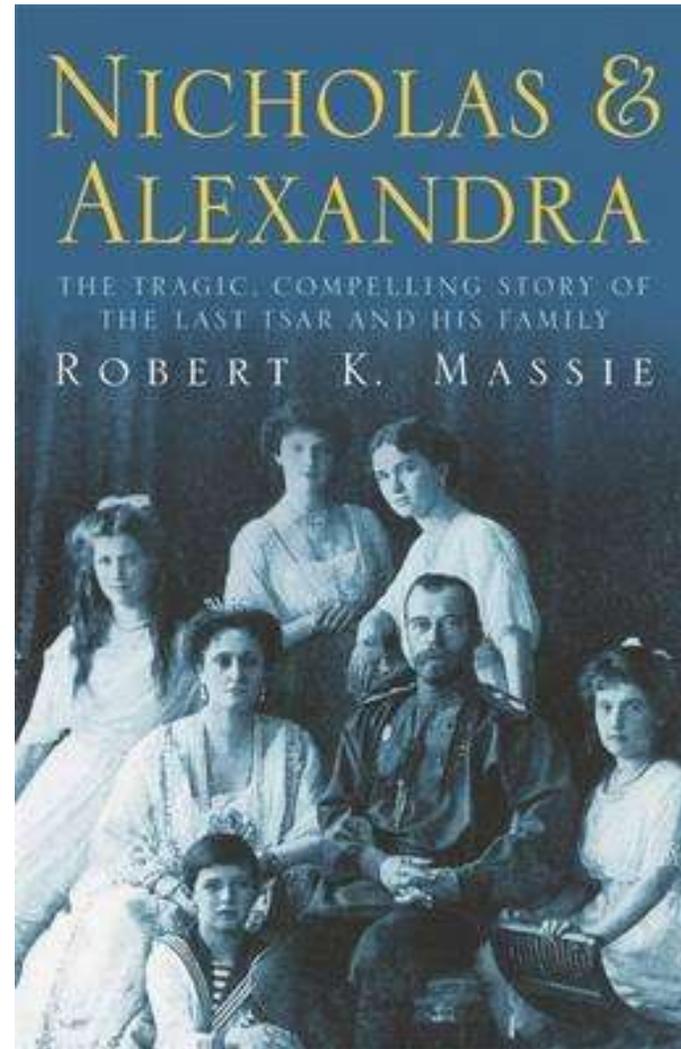




From the October
Revolution to the “House
of Special Purpose”

October 1917-July 1918



The storming of the Winter Palace

The October Revolution:
when the Bolsheviks seized
power



3 April 1917

Lenin (Vladimir Ilych Ulyanov) welcomed back to Petrograd

12 years of exile in Switzerland

Had not expected the quick collapse of czarism



Lenin perceived as an **extremist** amongst European socialists

Violent temper, irritable
Reluctant to compromise

European socialists who supported the war effort since 1914: "*cretins*" & "*pigs*"



A black and white photograph showing a large group of people, likely a political assembly or meeting. A man in the center, wearing a dark suit and a white beard, is gesturing with his right hand as if speaking or making a point. The audience consists of men and women of various ages, some looking towards the speaker, others looking away. The setting appears to be an indoor space with a simple, possibly stone or brick, wall in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a serious and engaged gathering.

1903: Instigated the **split** of the **Russian Social Democratic Workers Party**

“Bolsheviks” (Majority) vs. “Mensheviks” (Minority)

Bolsheviks: professional militants devoted to the cause of the Revolution

How Lenin kept himself informed of the situation in Russia since 1914?

Not much!

Communicated via import-export **shell company** in Copenhagen

Black market between Germany & Russia



Alexander Parvus

Russian socialist working for
the **German secret services**





January 1917: growing threat of revolution in Petrograd

Deficient transportation system paralyzed by harsh winter = Food shortages

Strikes

Crushing military defeats to the Germans

Nicolas II unresponsive: decided to leave for Headquarters to escape the “poisonous air” of Petrograd



23 February/8 March 1917: 100 000 people demand bread



25 February/10 March: Army patrols stand by without charging the angry populace



THE TSAR OF RUSSIA ABDICATES

Duma, Army and People Revolt Against Pro-German Influence and Food Crisis; Tsar's Brother as Regent; Battles in Street; Three Days' Bloodshed; Ministers in Prison.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior	PRINCE LYOV
Minister of National Defense	M. GUKENOV
Minister of Justice	M. KERENSKY
Minister of Finance	M. TERESHENKHO
Minister of Foreign Affairs	M. MILIUKOV
Minister of Agriculture and Food	M. SHINGAREV
Minister of Commerce	M. KONOVALOV
Minister of Ways of Communication	M. NEKRASSOV
Prosecutor of the Holy Synod	M. LYOV
Imperial Councillor	M. COOKEY

The abdication of the Tsar has come as a climax to the state of revolution which has existed in Petrograd for some days past. This was the dramatic scene announced in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon by Mr. Bonar Law, and learned by the public in Paris yesterday. The statement made by the British Chamberlain of the Embassy was confirmed by a telegram from Sir George Buchanan, his Majesty's Ambassador in Petrograd.

Following his original statement on Thursday, Mr. Bonar Law yesterday announced in Parliament that he had received a second despatch from Sir George Buchanan, in which he regretted the telegramic declaration made in his first telegram, and added that the statement that the Tsar had abdicated was not absolutely definite.

Despite the British Ambassador's partial reservation, the prevailing opinion everywhere is that while the official news of the Tsar's abdication has not yet been made known it is nevertheless an accomplished fact.

The news contained in numerous despatches from Petrograd, now released after several days' almost complete isolation of the Russian capital, shows that the Cabinet has been overthrown, and that a Provisional Government established by the Duma has chosen Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, brother of the Emperor, as Regent during the minority of the Czarovich.

TSAR FAILS TO MEET DEMAND.

The Duma, backed by the army, has carried out an astonishing and spontaneous coup d'etat. With the Petrograd garrison in command of the city, under Parliamentary orders, M. Rodzianko, President of the Duma, demanded of the Tsar a new Government. Failing to receive satisfaction, he placed himself at the head of a Provisional Government of twelve members.

This new Ministry immediately assumed control and adopted drastic measures to completely overthrow the old regime. Many of the late Ministers were seized and are now in prison.

The sources of the revolution are now more or less clearly defined, and show that the conditions of affairs throughout the Tsar's dominions recently made the change inevitable.

Pro-German influence in high places were deliberately leading military



Members of the Russian Royal House Who Figure in the Establishment of the New Government — M. Rodzianko, Head of Provisional Government.

Nicholas II, Tsar of Russia, has had a tempestuous reign. He was born at Petrograd on May 6, 1868. In 1894 he married Princess Alexandra of Hesse-Darmstadt, by whom he has had five children, four girls and a boy, Alexis, who was born in 1904.

The Tsar's entire life has been permeated by the assassination of his relatives and his officials. In 1892 his grandfather, Alexander II, fell.

The year 1905 was one of special terror. On New Year's Day the Tsar attended the annual ceremony of "Blessing the Navy." The sailing guns of the fortress of Peter and Paul fired a volley of cannon in mistake for blank cartridges, and the Tsar and his wife narrowly escaped death.

The end of 1904 and the opening months of 1905 were a period of confusion even in the terrible annals of Russia. On June 24 of the last-named year 60,000 strikers, most of them armed, sustained a pitched battle with the military in the streets of Lodz.

The Tsar took no considerable part in the development of the war. At one moment he stood out conspicuously when he appointed the command of the army in the place of Grand Duke Nicholas, but the effect was greater among soldiers than among soldiers.

The New Tsar.

The death of Prince Alexis, the lad who now, as it appears, is to succeed to the Russian throne under a Regency, has always been a source of great anxiety to his parents.

In 1902 the story was circulated that he had been injured while at play in the palace garden, but there were rumors of a Nihilist attempt on his life. Five years later he had miraculously recovered to be able to accompany his father to the Field Headquarters.

He has been described as a bright, high-spirited boy, "a mixture of the most robust type." He never tires, it is said, of hearing stories of the legendary heroes of Russia.

Grand Duke Michael's Career.

STORY OF REVOLUTION RELATED IN DESPATCHES FROM RUSSIAN CAPITAL

Scores of People Killed Before Duma Assumes Control—Military Attacks Allied Ambassadors.

SPINAL TO THE BEREKES
Leningrad, Friday.—The story of the revolution is told graphically by the Petrograd correspondent of the "Times" in the following despatches sent off between Monday and Wednesday morning.

MOSCOW, 11.45 a.m.—The events of Friday were multiplied manifold yesterday. Scores of people were killed and wounded in various parts of the Nevsky Prospekt during the afternoon. The fire brought everybody out of doors, and the military and police were

the Ministry of the Interior and the Office of the Commandant of the City. Early in the day the prisons were captured and all who were detained in them were set free.

M. Milobogovitch, the reactionary president of the Upper House, refused to recognize that Assembly after the taking of possession. He was arrested by order of the Committee and imprisoned in the Tauris Palace.

According to the latest news from the Duma, the Socialist members seceded from the Committee, and, as a result, made no moderate. This may impact the usefulness of the Committee as a rallying point, whereas order could be restored from the present chaos.

The Council of Ministers decided last night to resign and so advised the Emperor, who is said to have replied that he was unable to do so.

on leaders signed their entire resignation and withdrew their resignations from the committee, decided to form a Provisional Government. A final vote was deferred in consequence of an invitation telephoned to M. Rodzianko to attend a meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Marine Palace.

Duma's Decisive Step.

M. Rodzianko succeeded either, safely traversing the entire city under a guard of the Duma troops in arrested circumstances. He found all the Ministers assembled and also Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Tsar. M. Rodzianko informed them that the Duma, acting in accordance with the people, had decided to constitute a Provisional Government, as they saw no other way of reestablishing order in the capital, and of saving the empire from anarchy and

chaos. The Provisional Government was formed at once. The Provisional Government was formed at once. The Provisional Government was formed at once.

Yesterday was the sacking of the residence of Count Frolovskaya, which adjoins the Telegraph Office. It was thought at first that the Telegraph Office was in danger, but as it telegraphed last night, the Provisional Government saved it. They could not save Count Frolovskaya's house. Meanwhile, however, serious arrests. The aged wife of the Minister of the Imperial Court was carried out from the burning residence in a fainting condition. Her daughter, a beautiful girl, rushed out carrying a favorite dog. The animal was killed and the cripple girl liberated by the drunken mob. Both ladies were eventually rescued to a place of safety. Count Frolovskaya himself is in attendance on the Emperor.

The Social Democratic party has a card a proclamation of a new political platform, which was issued yesterday.

Nicolas II pressured to abdicate (the Duma & the Army)

Grand Duke Mikhail renounces the throne: the end of the Romanov rule over Russia



The February Revolution

The formation of **two rival powers** in Petrograd

1. A **Provisional Government**

2. The **Petrograd Soviet**
("council")



What is a **Soviet**?

Soviet = “council of workers
and soldiers”

Control over factories,
arsenals, military units...



Going back to Russia as soon as possible

The only solution: travelling through neutral Sweden

The British and the French unlikely to help out

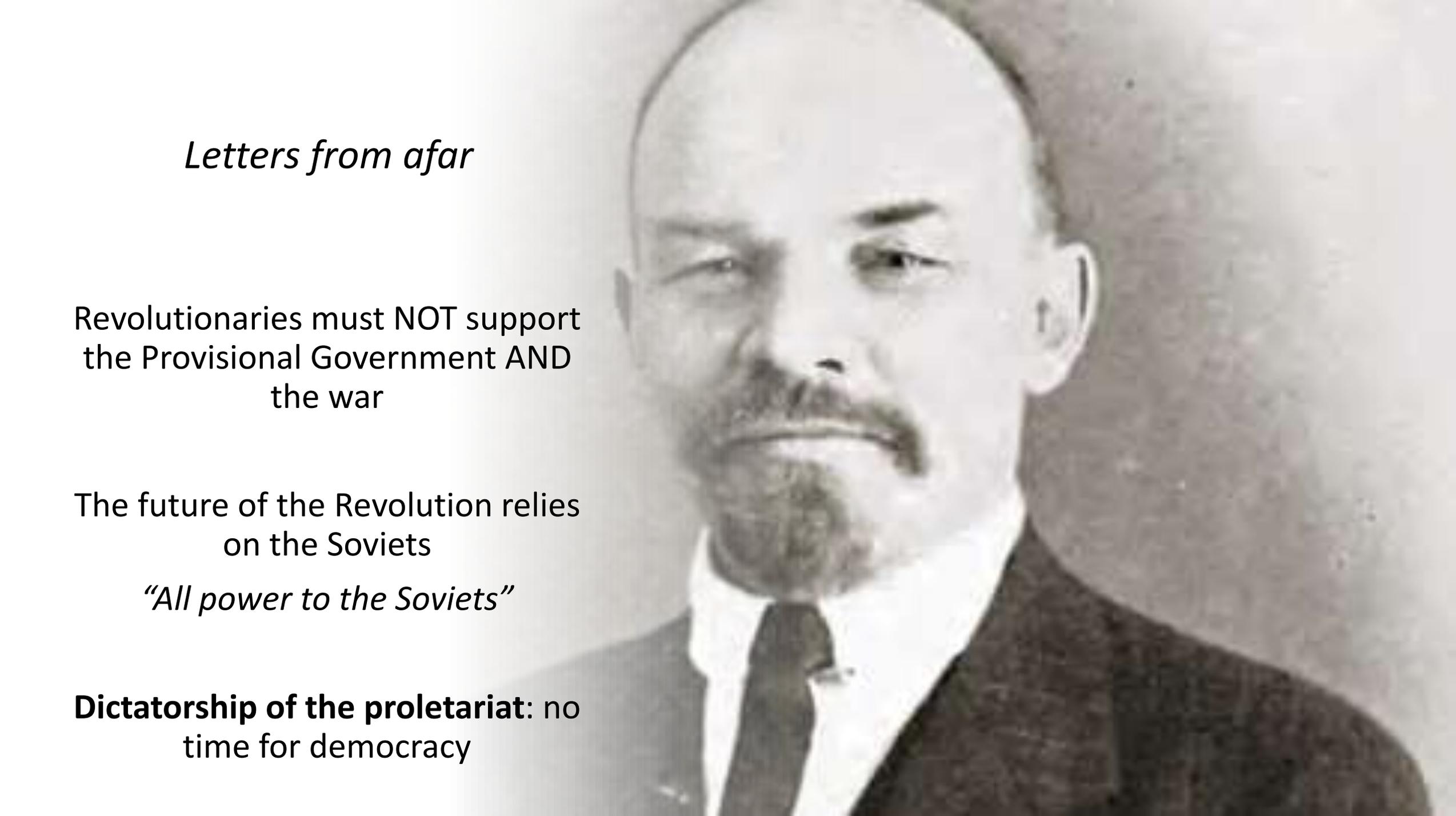
WHY?



WORLD WAR I 1914-1918

	Allied Powers		Major areas of fighting
	Central Powers		Major battle
	Neutral countries		



A black and white portrait of Vladimir Lenin, showing him from the chest up. He has a high forehead, a mustache, and a goatee. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Letters from afar

Revolutionaries must NOT support
the Provisional Government AND
the war

The future of the Revolution relies
on the Soviets

“All power to the Soviets”

Dictatorship of the proletariat: no
time for democracy

Negotiations with the Germans

German Consul in Bern

Why allowing Lenin and 32 of his supporters to return to Russia?

To undermine Russia's war effort

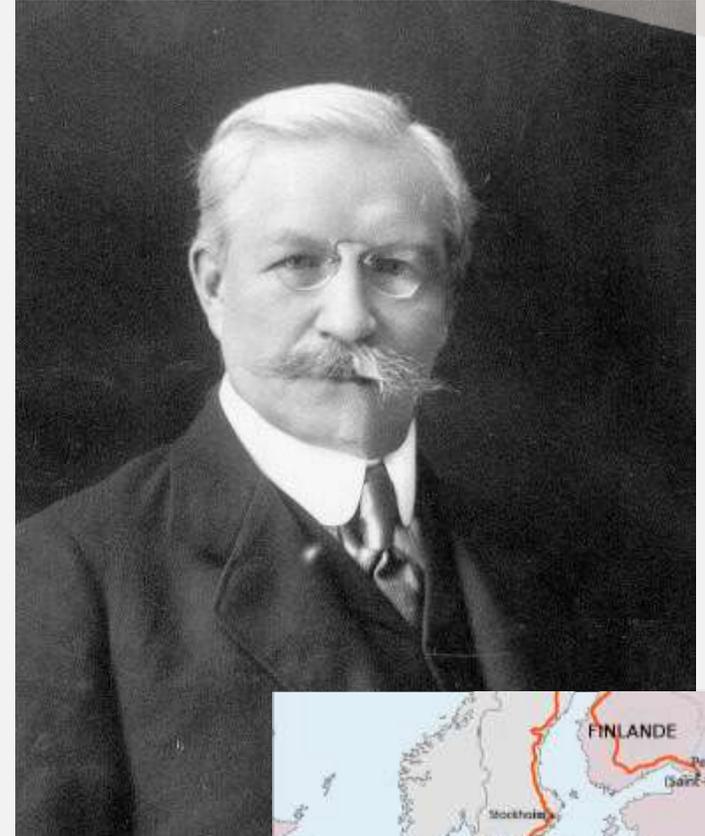


Travelling through Germany?

A risky move

Russia's new foreign affairs minister (**Pavel Milyukov**): anyone accepting assistance from the Germans to be arrested

Lenin's condition: **extraterritorial status** to be granted to the "sealed" train



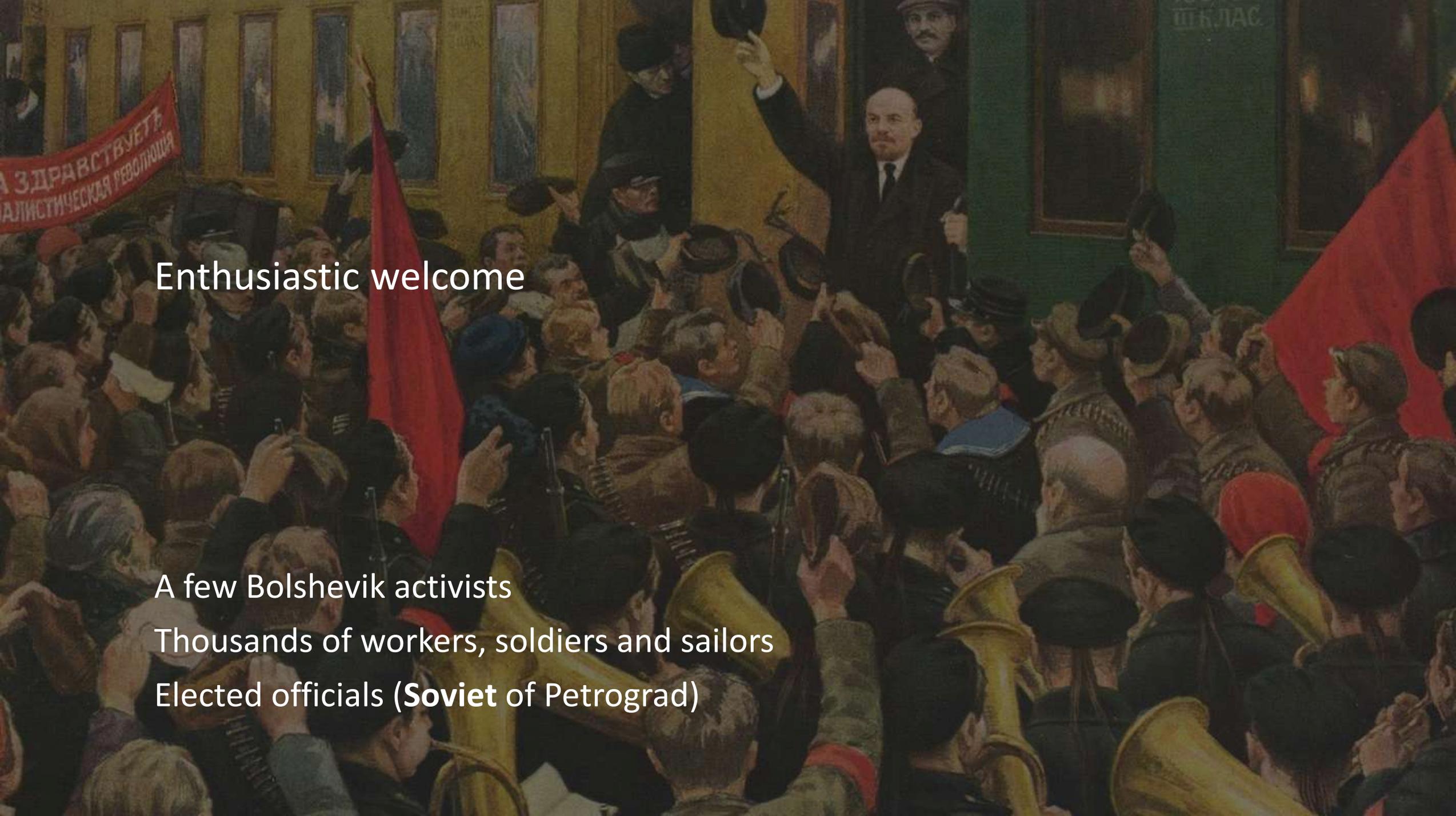
Keeping up appearances

Lenin and his companions to pay for their train tickets and food

The reality: the trip financed by the Germans
June 1917: Lenin accused of being a German agent







Enthusiastic welcome

A few Bolshevik activists

Thousands of workers, soldiers and sailors

Elected officials (**Soviet of Petrograd**)

Lenin perceived as an extremist

Lenin's fear: to be arrested upon arrival

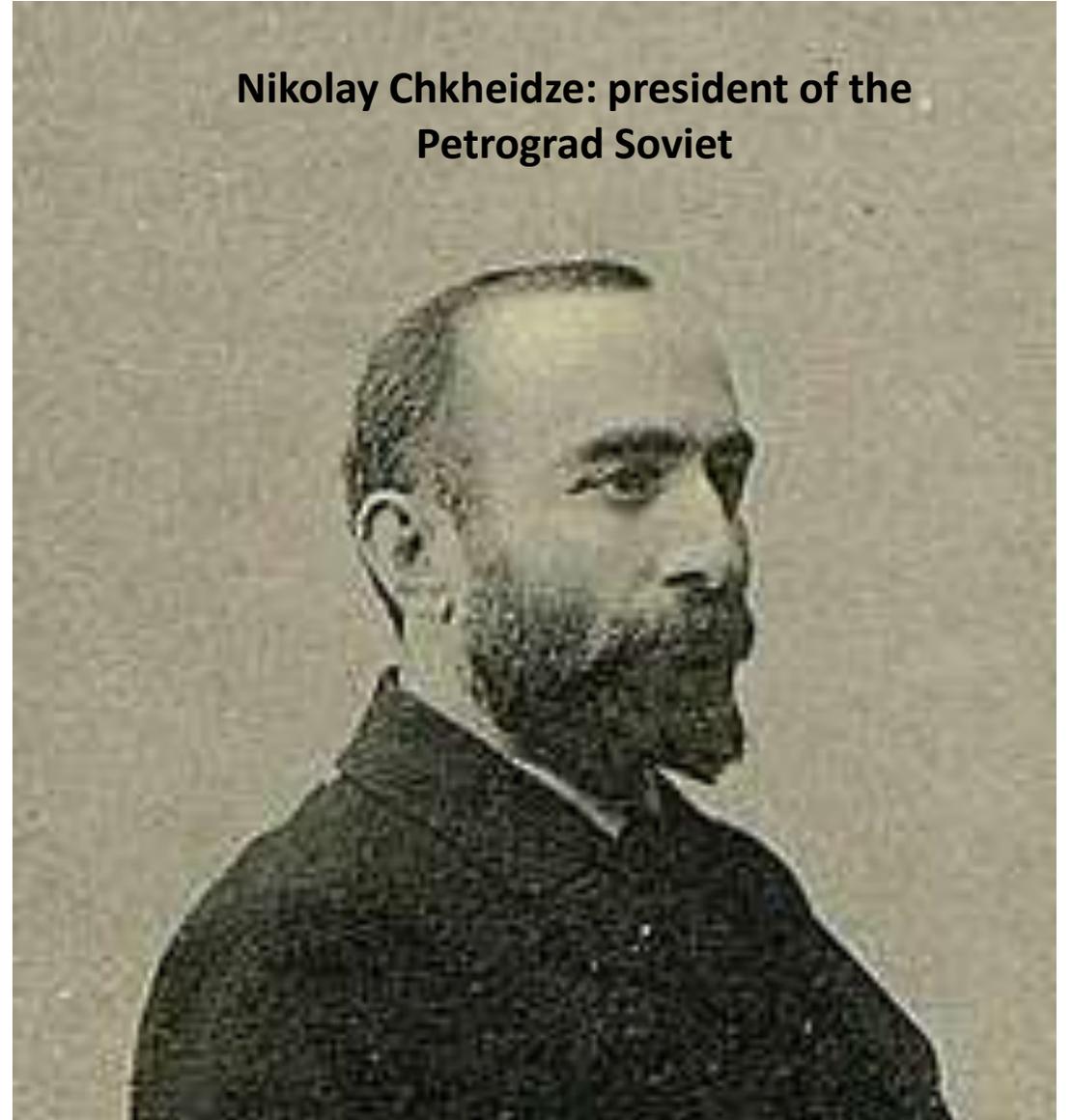
Spirit of democracy in Russia: allowing
Lenin back

All the power to the Soviets

The land to the peasants

Down with the "imperialist war"

**Nikolay Chkheidze: president of the
Petrograd Soviet**





The Kschessinska Mansion

The seat of the **Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party**

A very divided Bolshevik Party

The **radicals**: the Petrograd Soviet must seize power



Josef Stalin

The “moderates”

To negotiate a fair peace with the
Germans first

No socialist revolution in the short term
(opportunistic collaboration with the
Provisional Government)

In charge of the Bolshevik newspaper
Pravda



Lev Kamenev



Lenin isolated

8 April: Central Committee rejected Lenin's approach

15 April: the Petrograd Soviet (Bolsheviks in the minority) called Lenin's theses "dangerous & counter-revolutionary"



A “dual power” since
February

A *Bourgeois Provisional
Government* led by
moderate monarchists

The **Petrograd Soviet**



Alexander Kerensky

A former lawyer

A member of the Petrograd Soviet

AND

Minister of Justice (Provisional
Government)

To prepare the election of a
constituent assembly (consulting the
Russian people as to their preferred
form of government)



April 1917

Provisional Government vs. Petrograd Soviet
War vs. Peace

Provisional Government: only a victory
against Germany acceptable

June 1917: the First All-Russian Congress of Soviets of Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies

350 Soviets across Russia

1 090 delegates

105 Bolsheviks (**Leon Trotsky**): a very active minority



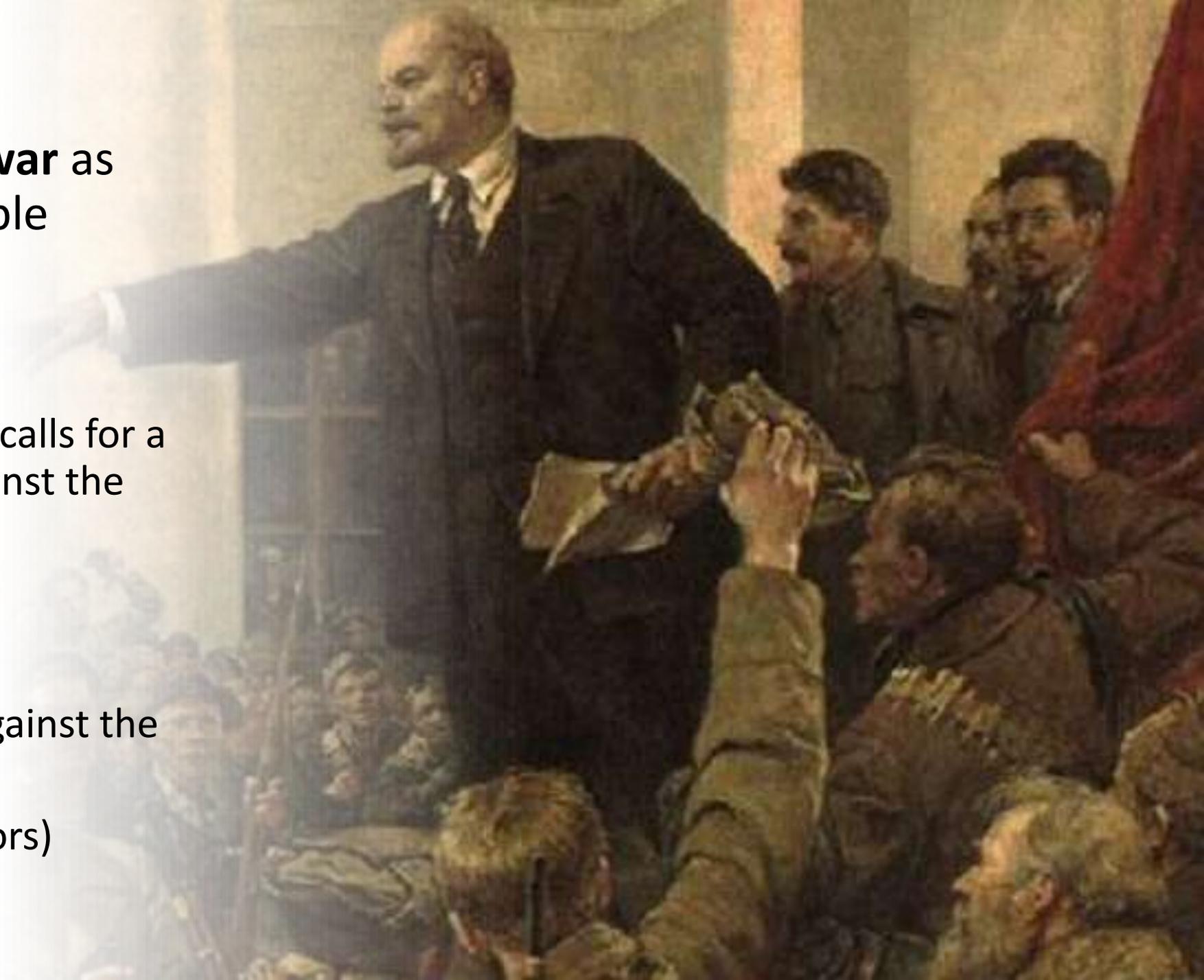
Lenin: **ending the war** as quickly as possible

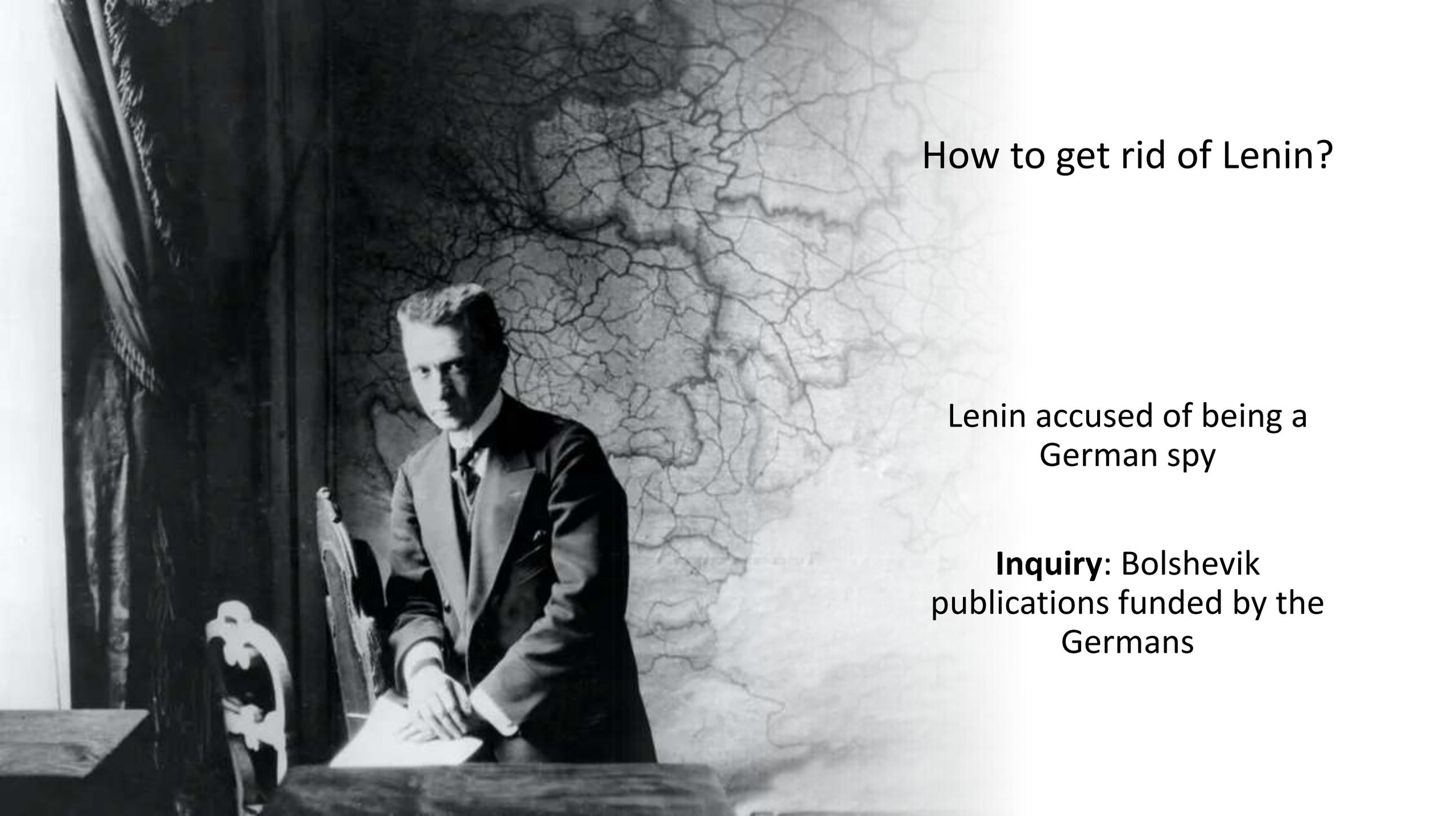
Kerensky (War Minister): calls for a renewed offensive against the Germans

Desertions

Street demonstrations against the war

(4 July: 10 000 sailors)

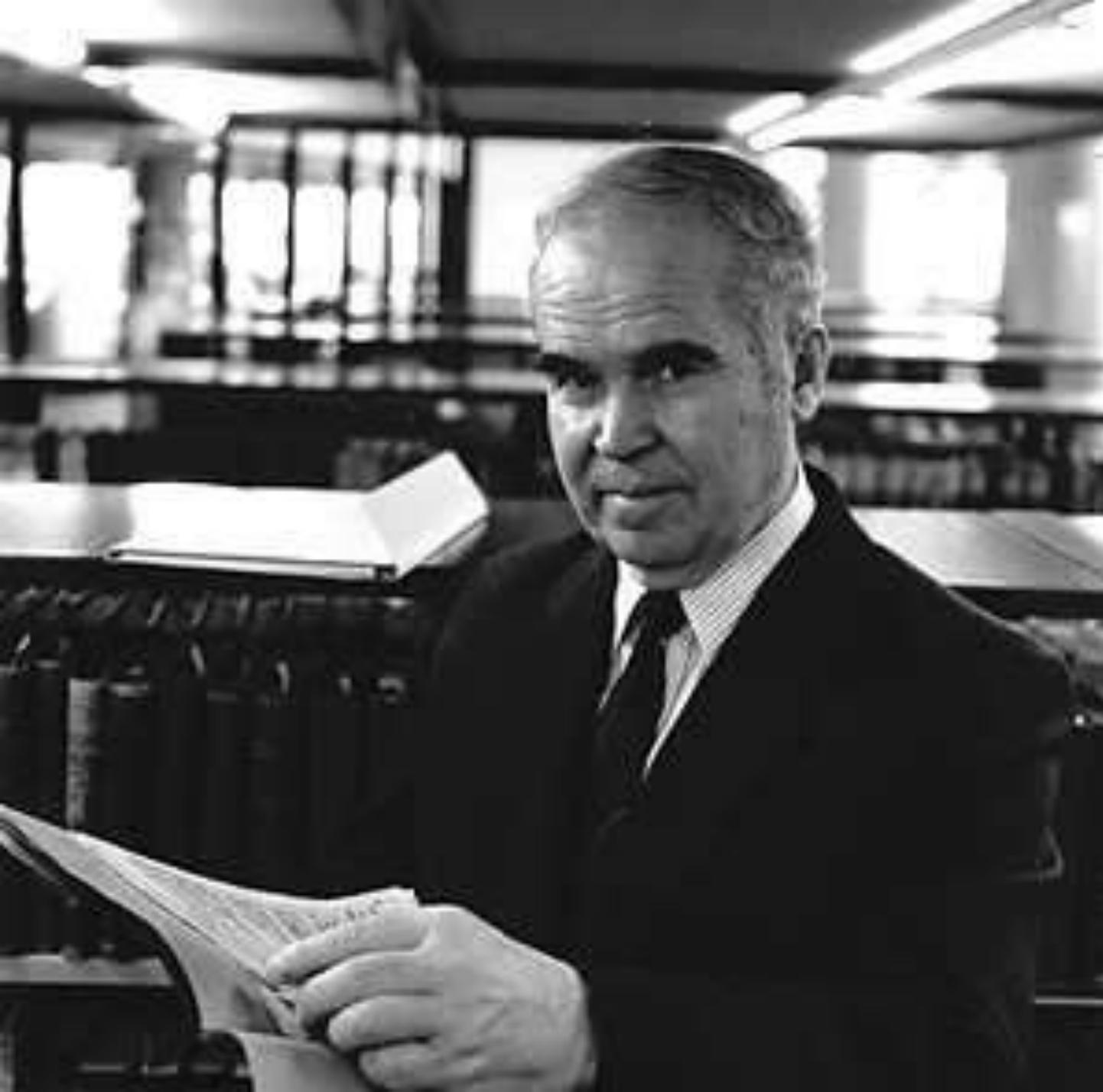




How to get rid of Lenin?

Lenin accused of being a
German spy

Inquiry: Bolshevik
publications funded by the
Germans



The opening of the
Soviet archives (1980s)

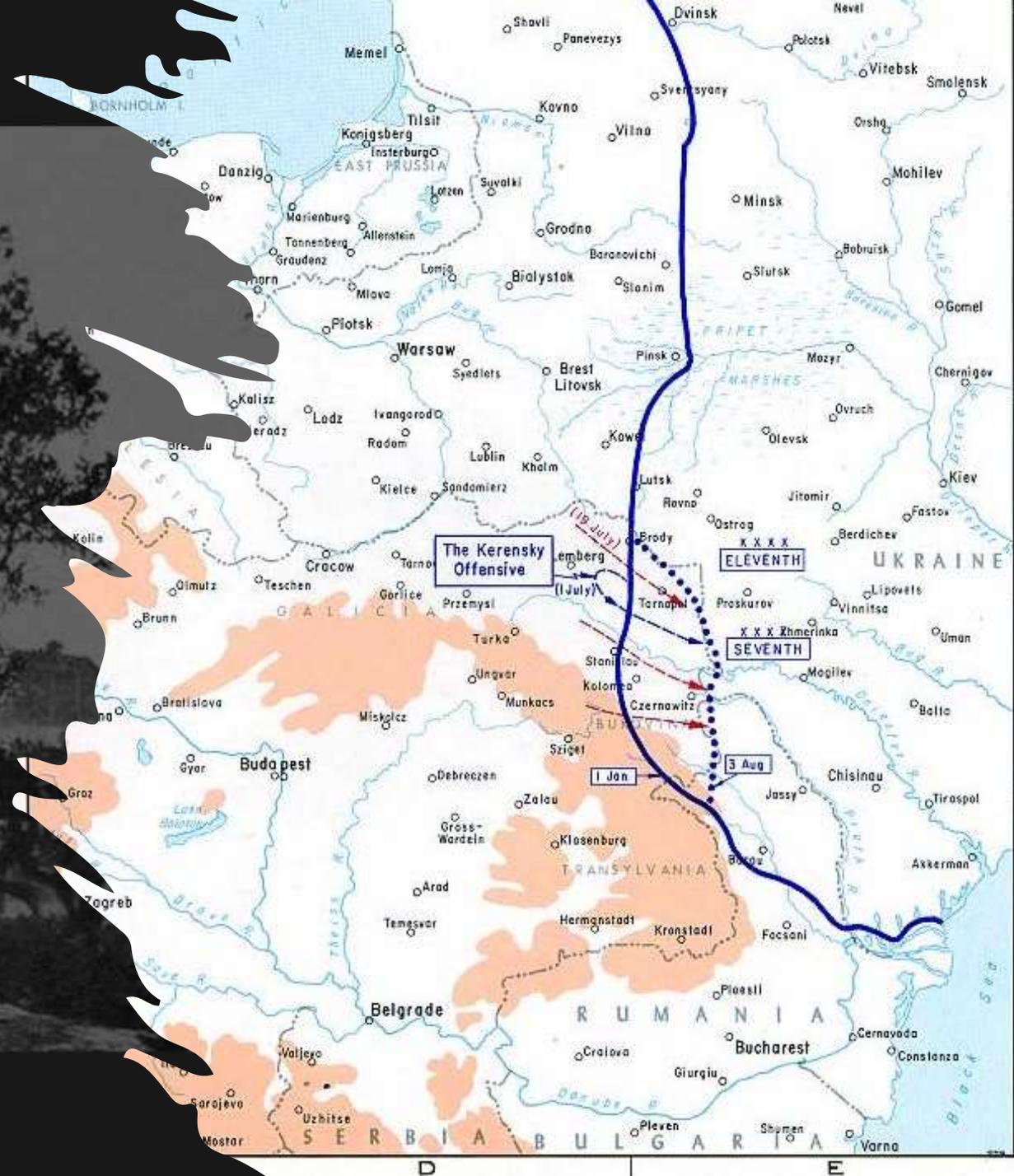
Russian historian **Dmitri Volkogonov:**
German banks did fund the
Bolsheviks in 1917!

July 1917: the initial success of the Kerensky Offensive

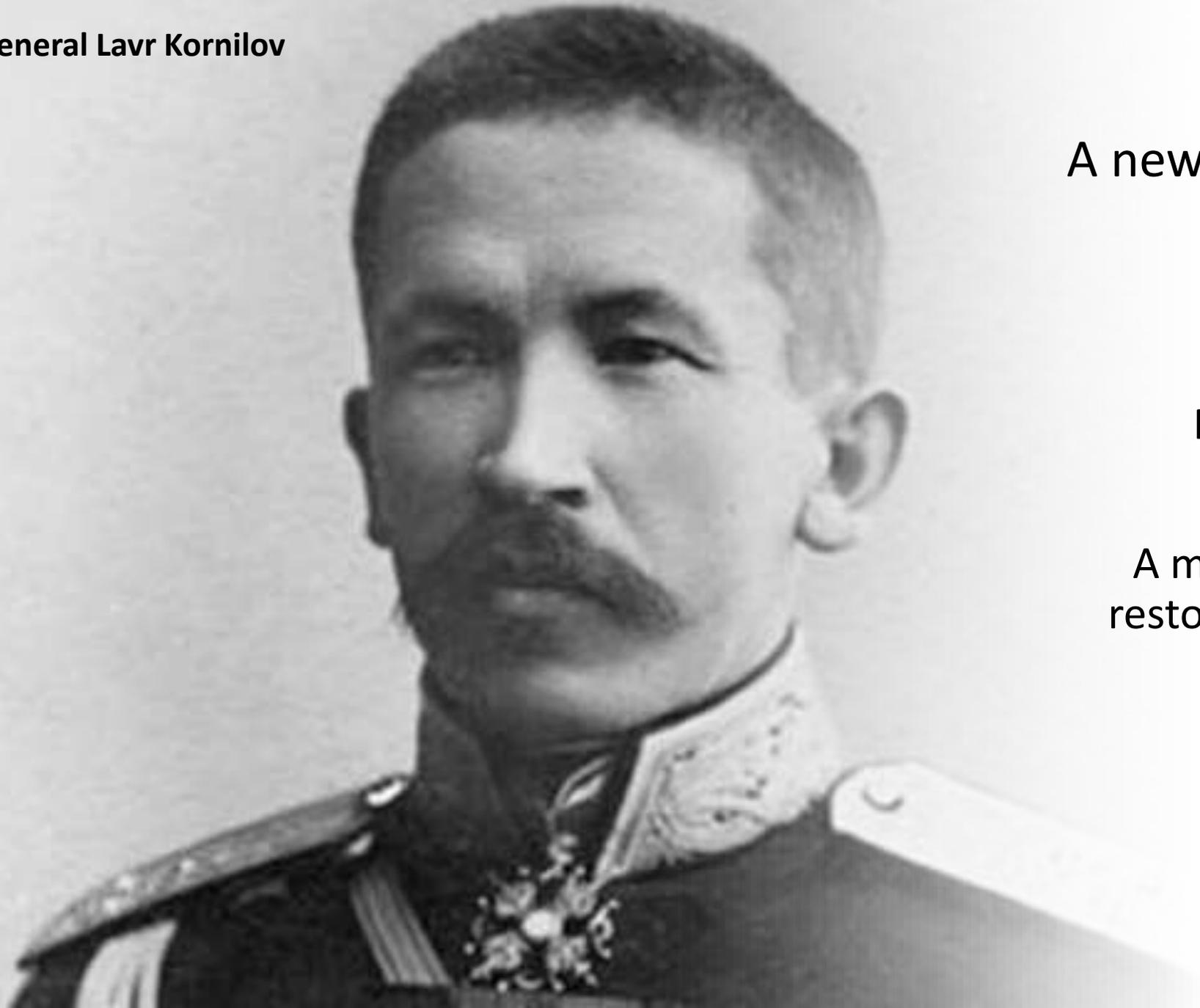
7 July: Government ordered Lenin's arrest

Trotsky arrested
Lenin fled to Finland

Mutinies: the offensive stopped



General Lavr Kornilov



A new commander-in-chief

Political ambitions

A military dictatorship to
restore order & save Russia
from anarchy



A failed coup

Panic in Petrograd

What to do to stop Kornilov?

Kerensky to the Petrograd Soviet
(including the Bolsheviks): please
help!

Trotsky and Bolshevik leaders
gained **control** of Petrograd Soviet

Lenin's message

Seize power now!

Central Committee of Bolshevik
Party: Lenin forbidden from
returning

Lenin returned anyway (false
identity)



Growing discontent

Down to war!

Tens of thousands of
deserters roaming the roads
of Russia

Extreme violence
The army about to collapse







The Bolshevik Party: 500 000 members in October 1917

10 October 1917

Central Committee:
decision to proceed with
a **coup** (10 vs.2) against
the Provisional
Government

WHEN?

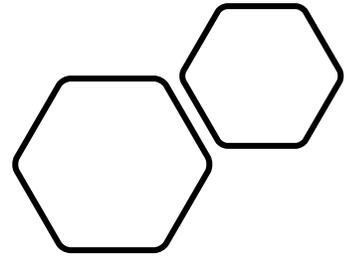


Winter Palace: the seat of the Provisional Government

Kerensky: what to do?

Will the troops defend the palace?
No reinforcement to be expected





Smolny Institute





20-24 October

Planning the storming of the
Winter Palace

Enlisting the support of
soldiers and sailors

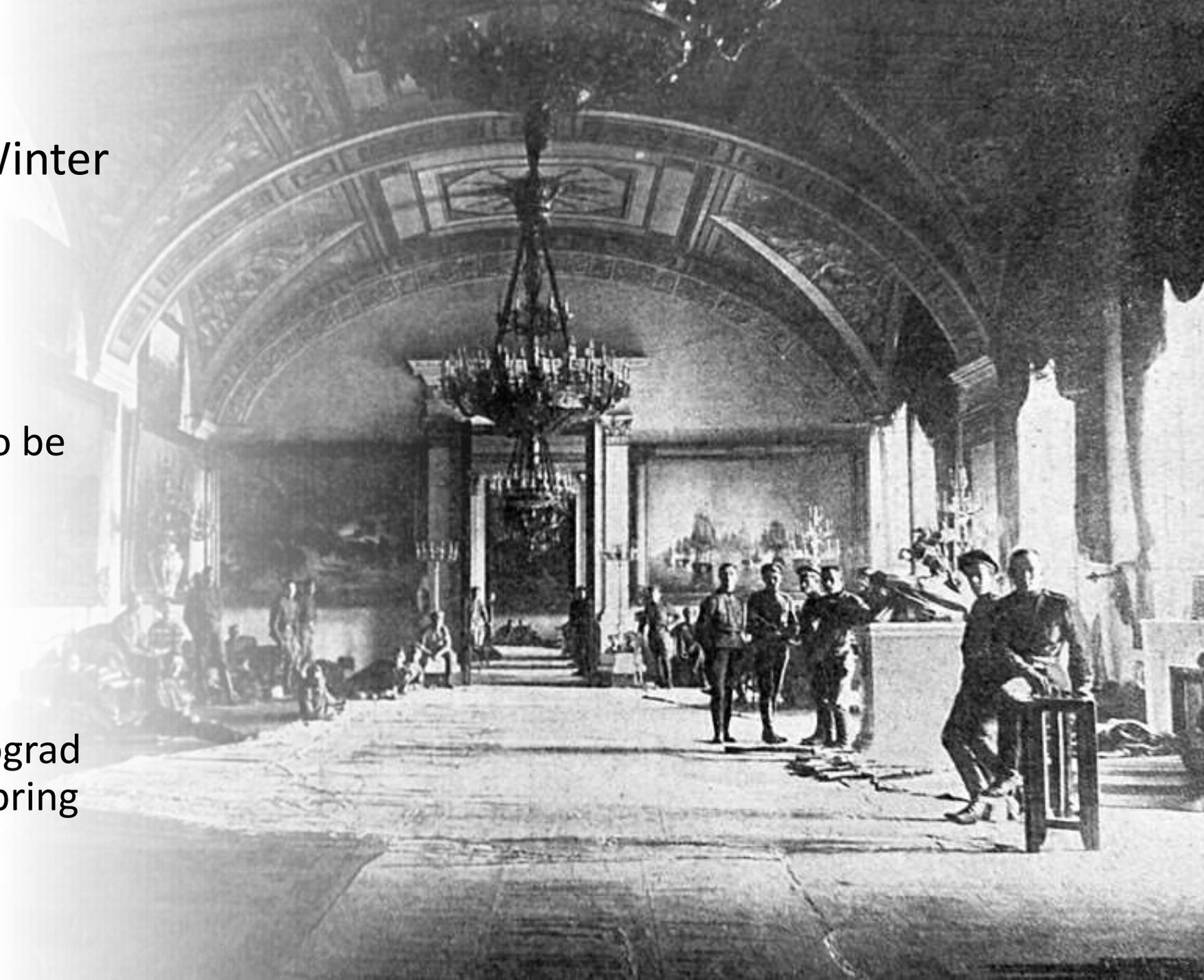
The **Red Guards** (Bolshevik-
led workers' militia)

Meanwhile at the Winter
Palace...

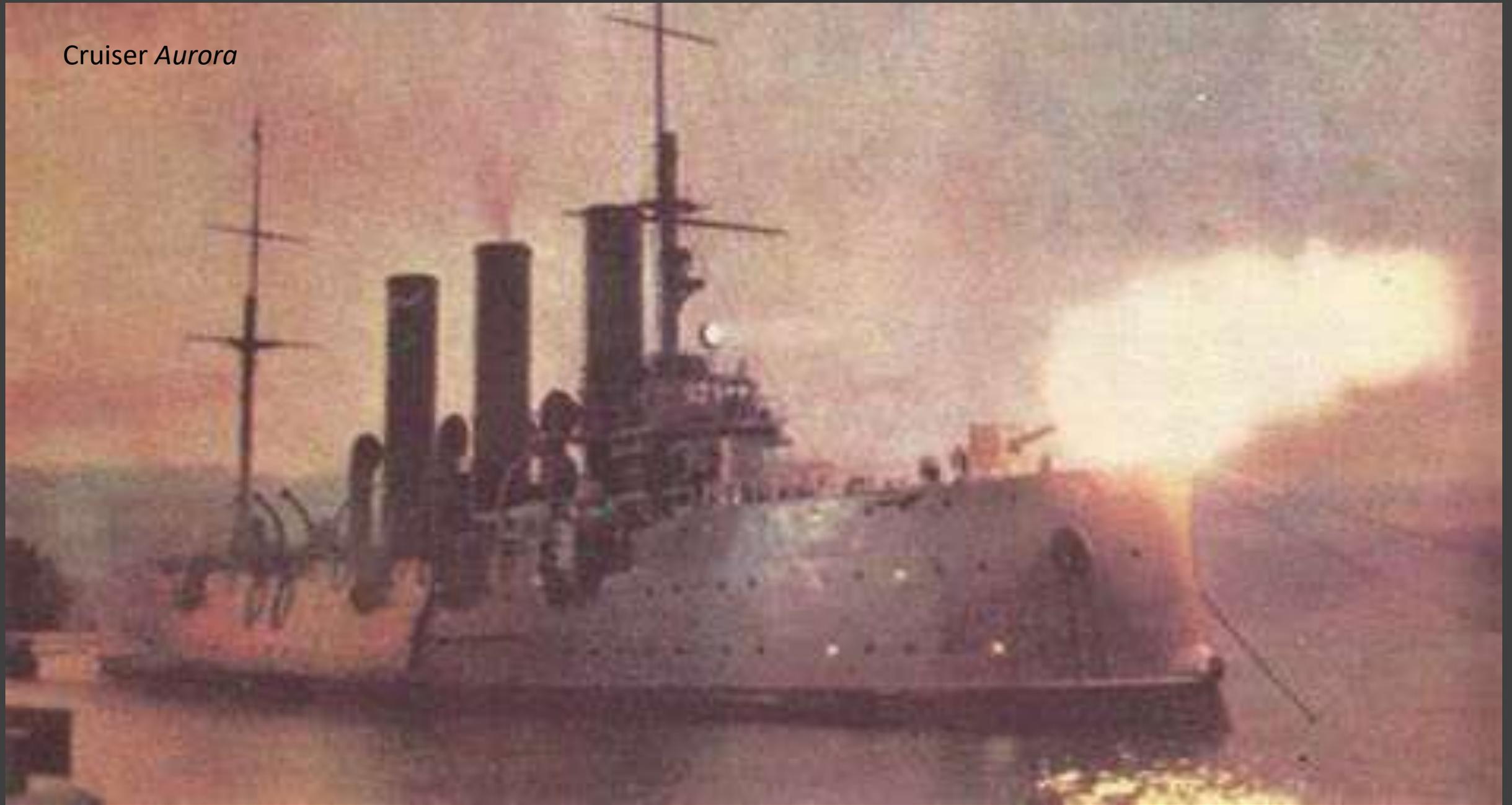
No reinforcements to be
expected

No telephone

Kerensky leaves Petrograd
(never to return!) to bring
reinforcements



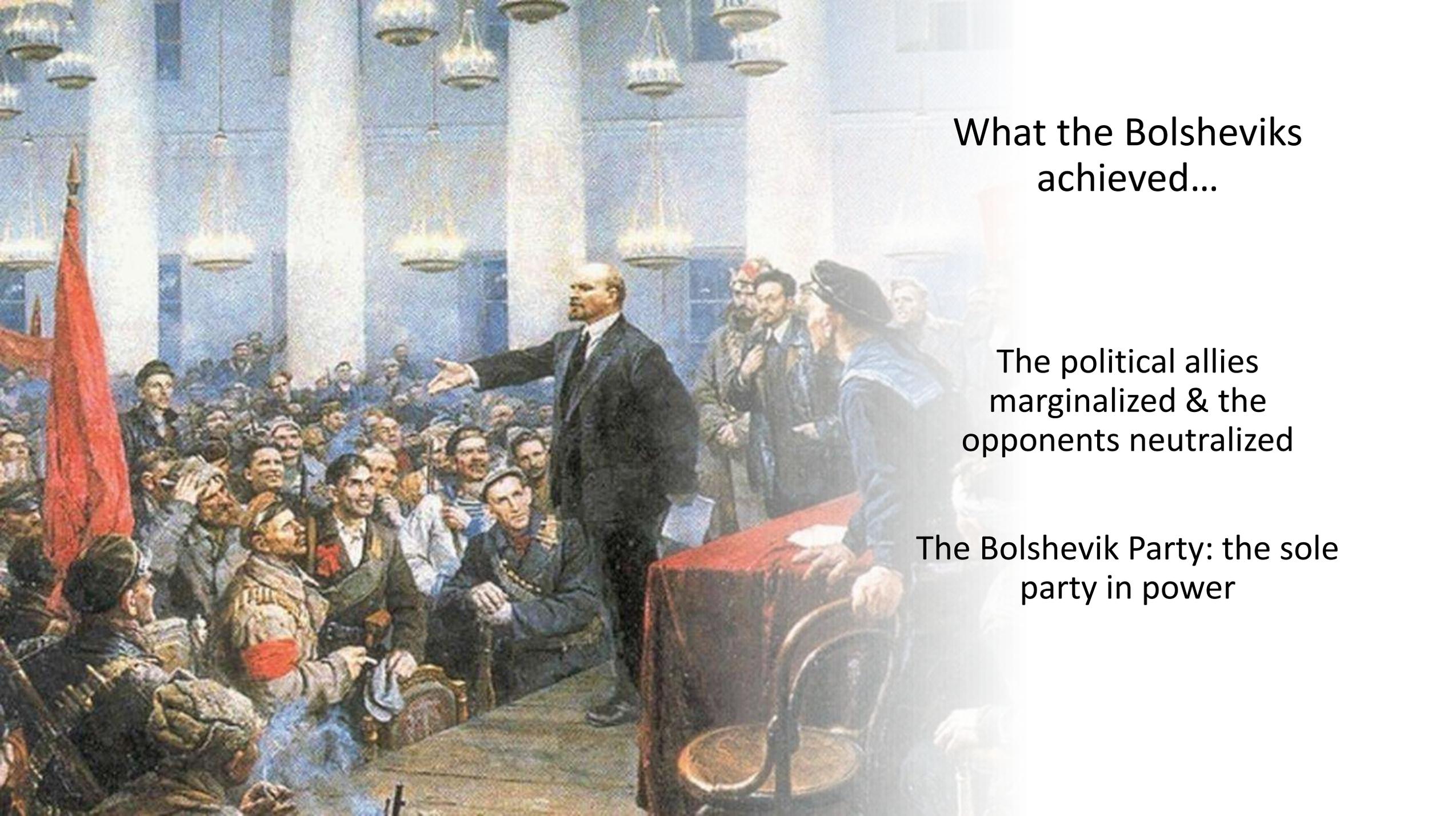
Cruiser *Aurora*











What the Bolsheviks
achieved...

The political allies
marginalized & the
opponents neutralized

The Bolshevik Party: the sole
party in power



The crime of the Ipatiev House

**Were Nicolas II and his family
assassinated in Yekaterinburg?**



March 1917

The abdication of Nicolas II

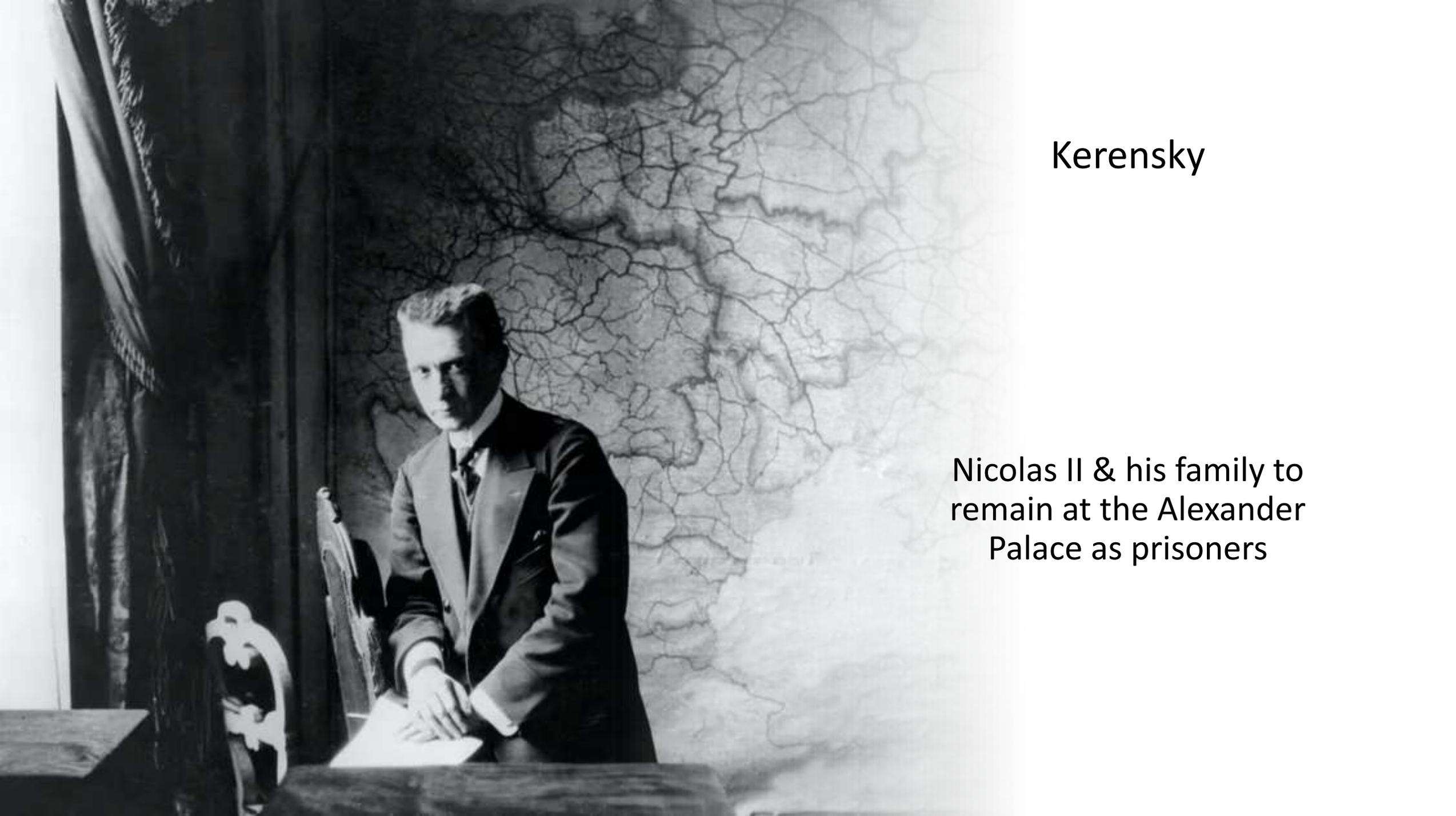
Provisional Government:
what to do with the Imperial
family?

Secret negotiations with British
government

The most radicals within the
Petrograd Soviet: Nicolas II to be
incarcerated & executed

Pavel Milyukov

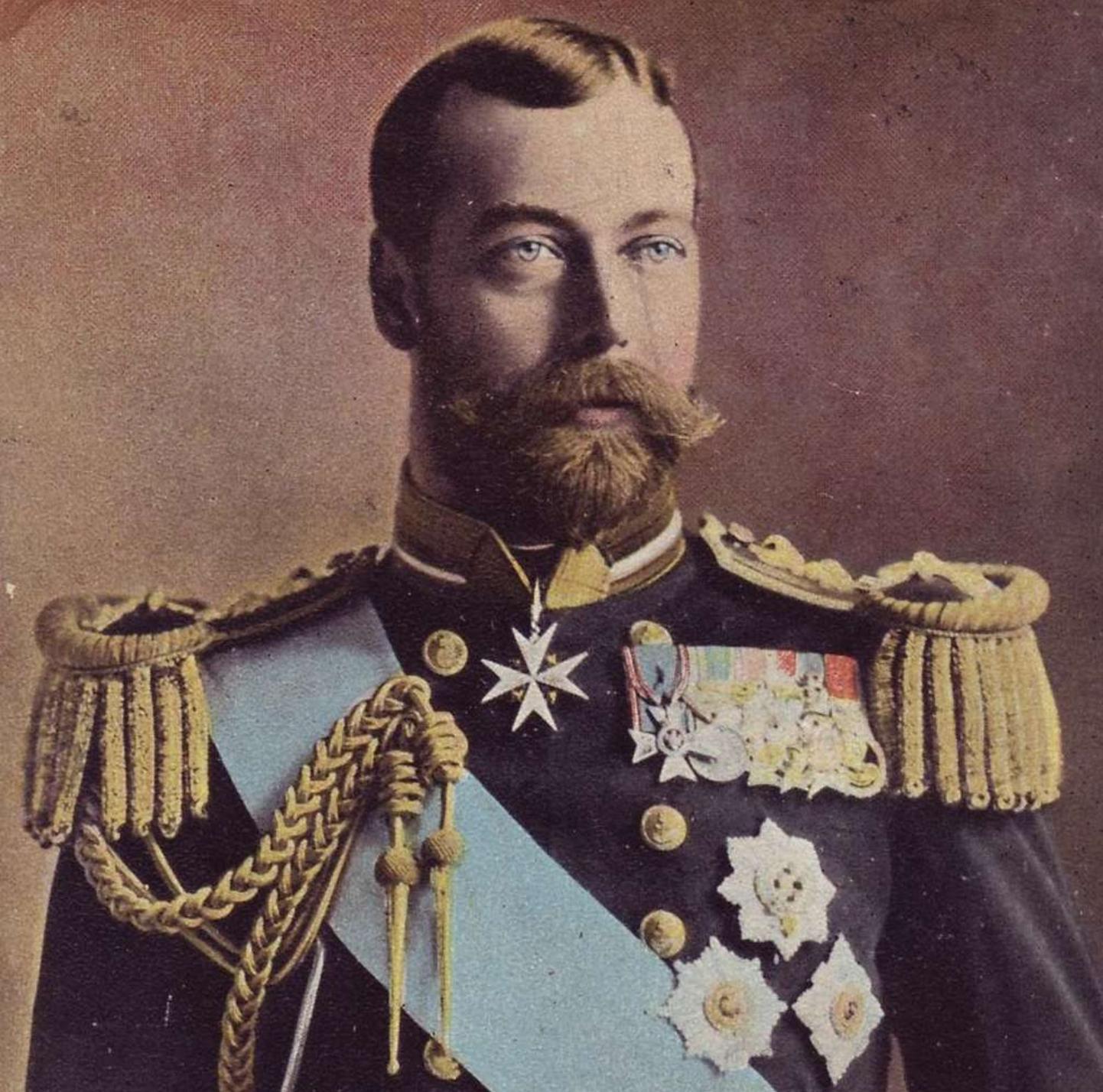




Kerensky

Nicolas II & his family to
remain at the Alexander
Palace as prisoners





June 1917: some bad news...

Exile in England no longer an option

George V: his cousin not welcome to England

Change of name to Windsor



April 1917: the return of Lenin

Growing political instability

July 1917: decision to transfer the Romanovs to **Tobolsk** (Siberia)



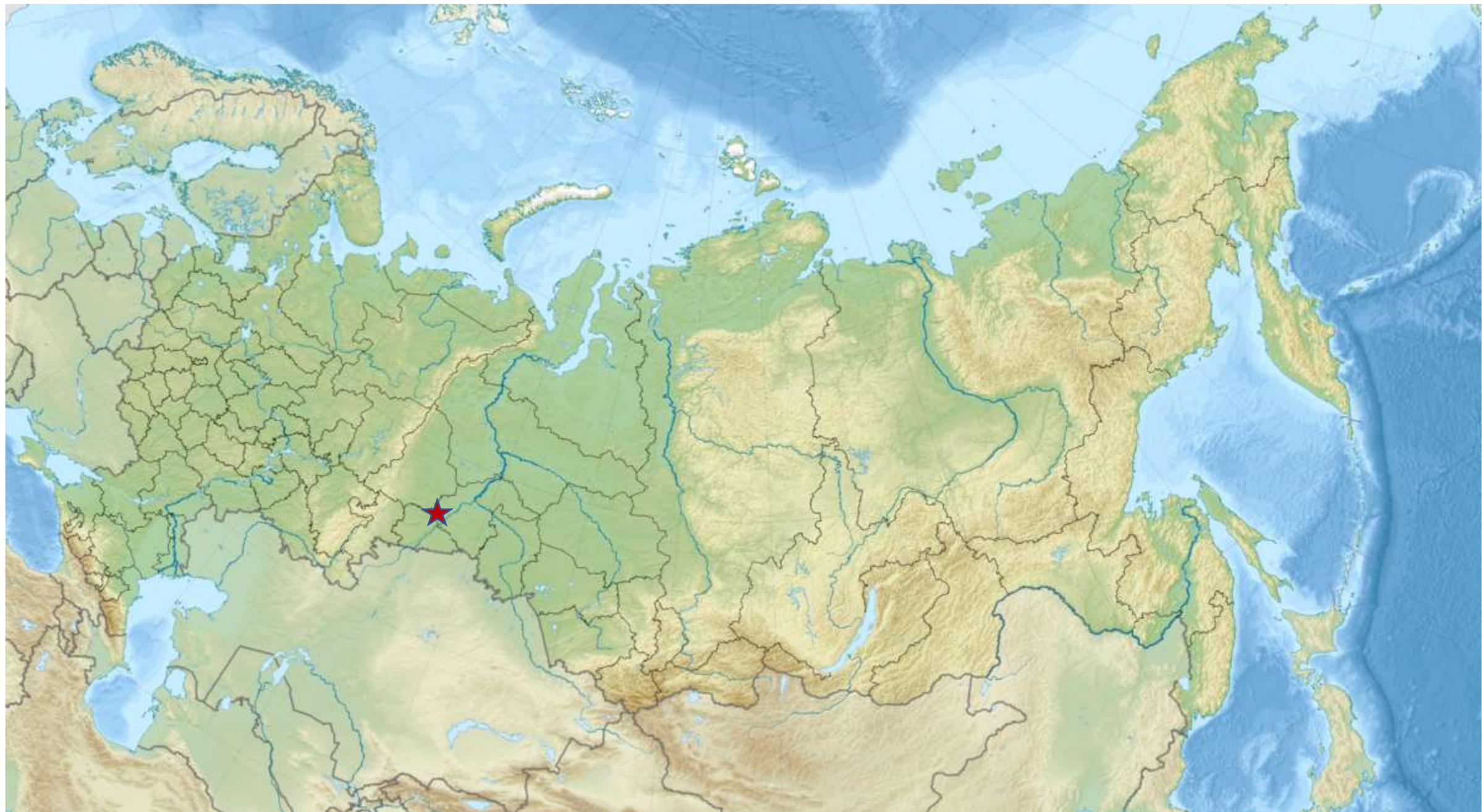
Governor's residence

Relative freedom



The October Revolution: the Bolsheviks in power



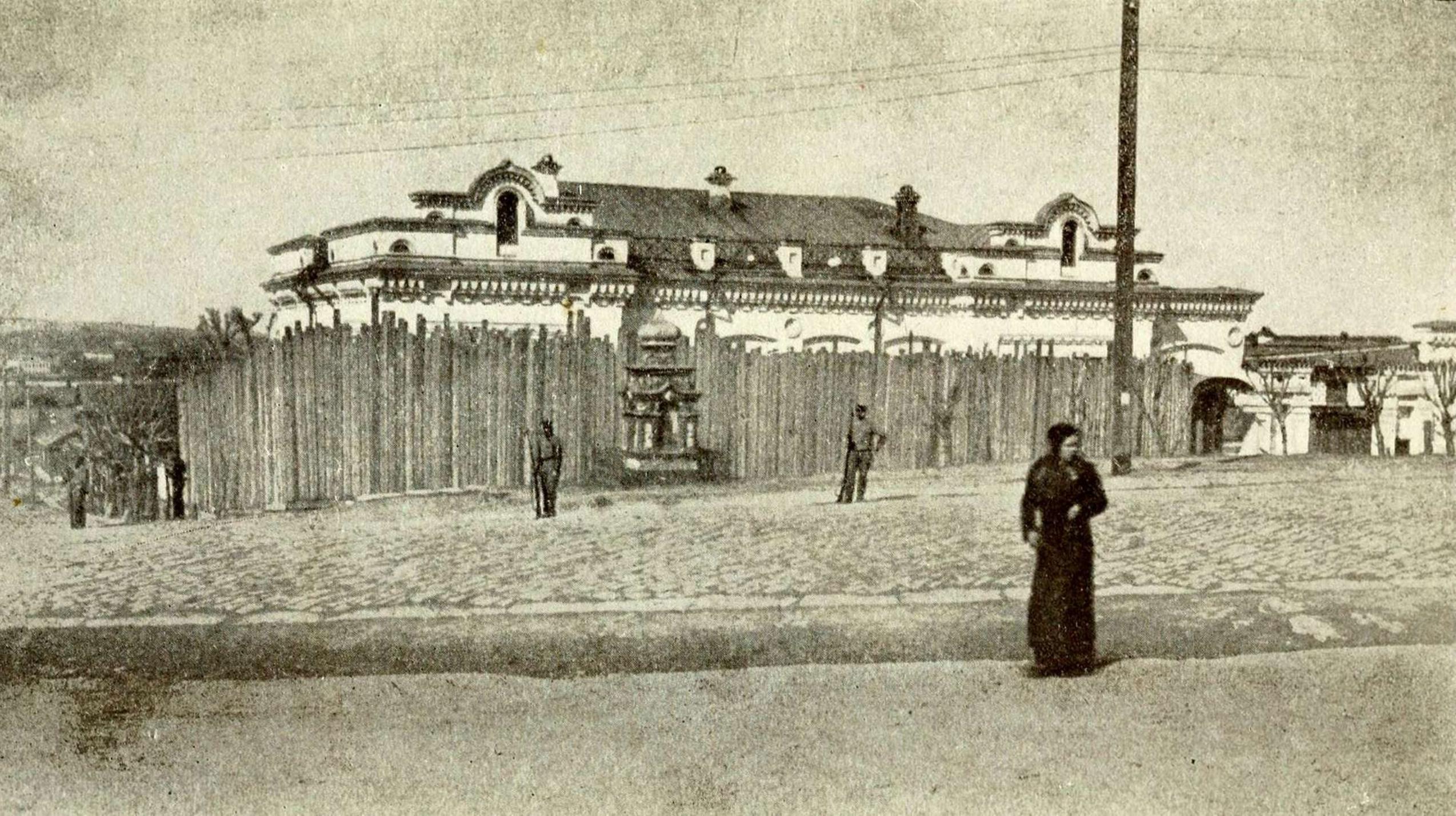






The "House of Special Purpose"





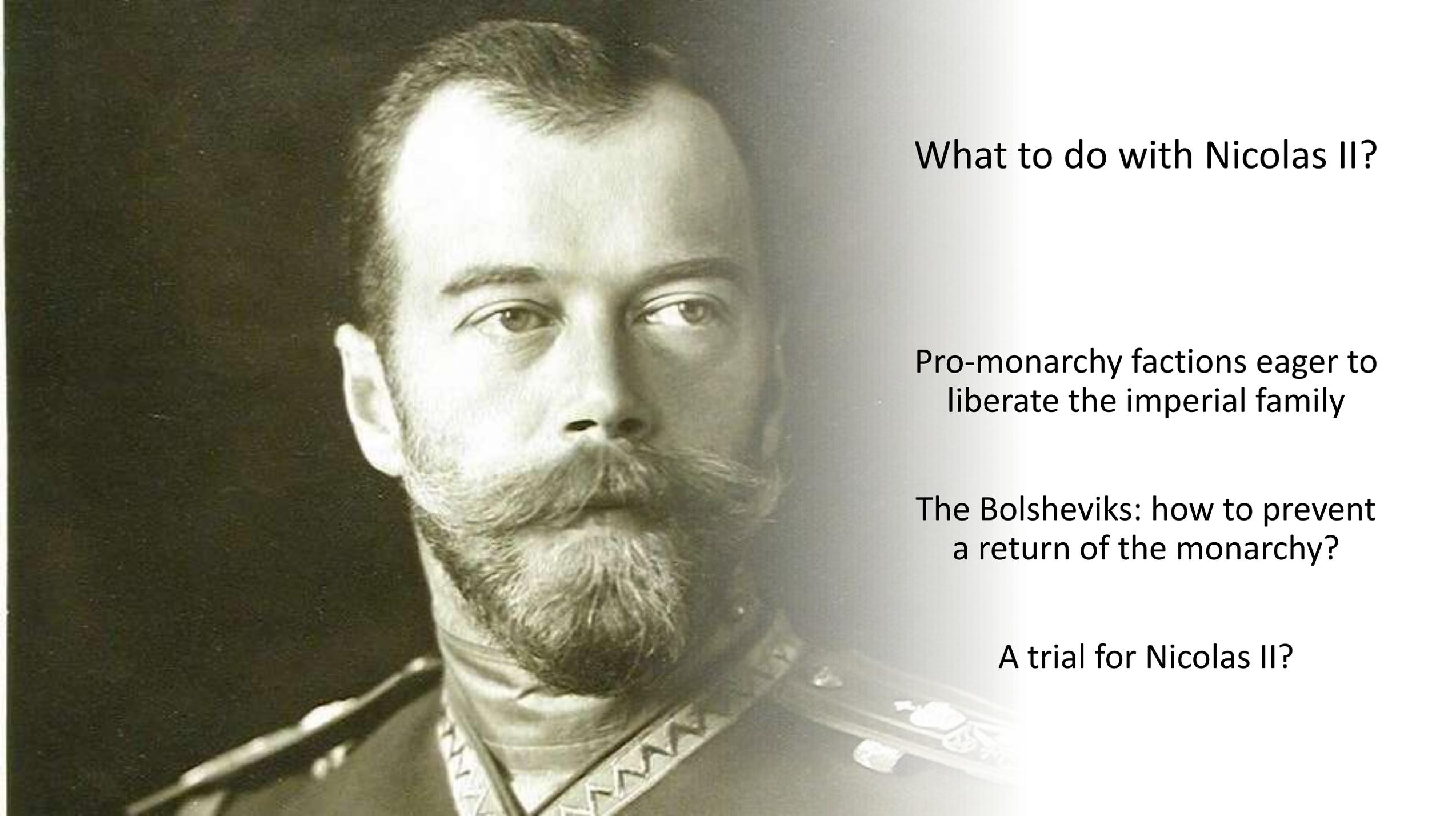


A harsh captivity

A tense political situation

Peace of Brest-Litovsk with
Germany
(March 1918)

A **civil war** (the “Red Terror”)
“Reds vs. Whites”



What to do with Nicolas II?

Pro-monarchy factions eager to liberate the imperial family

The Bolsheviks: how to prevent a return of the monarchy?

A trial for Nicolas II?



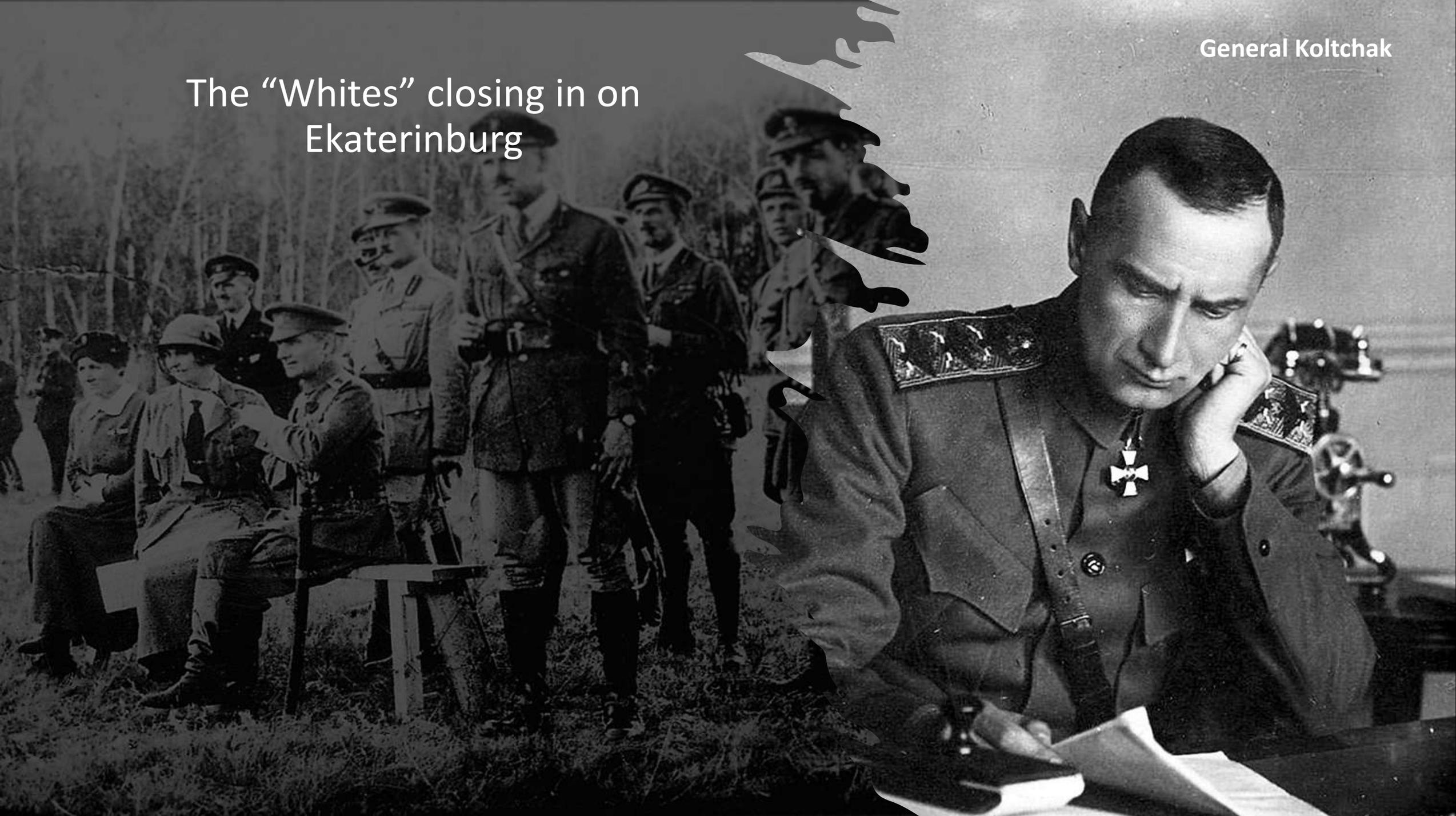
Trotsky: a trial

Lenin: no time for a trial

The imperial family must be
eliminated

General Koltchak

The "Whites" closing in on
Ekaterinburg

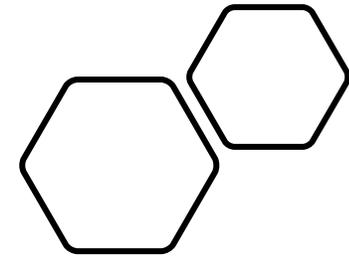


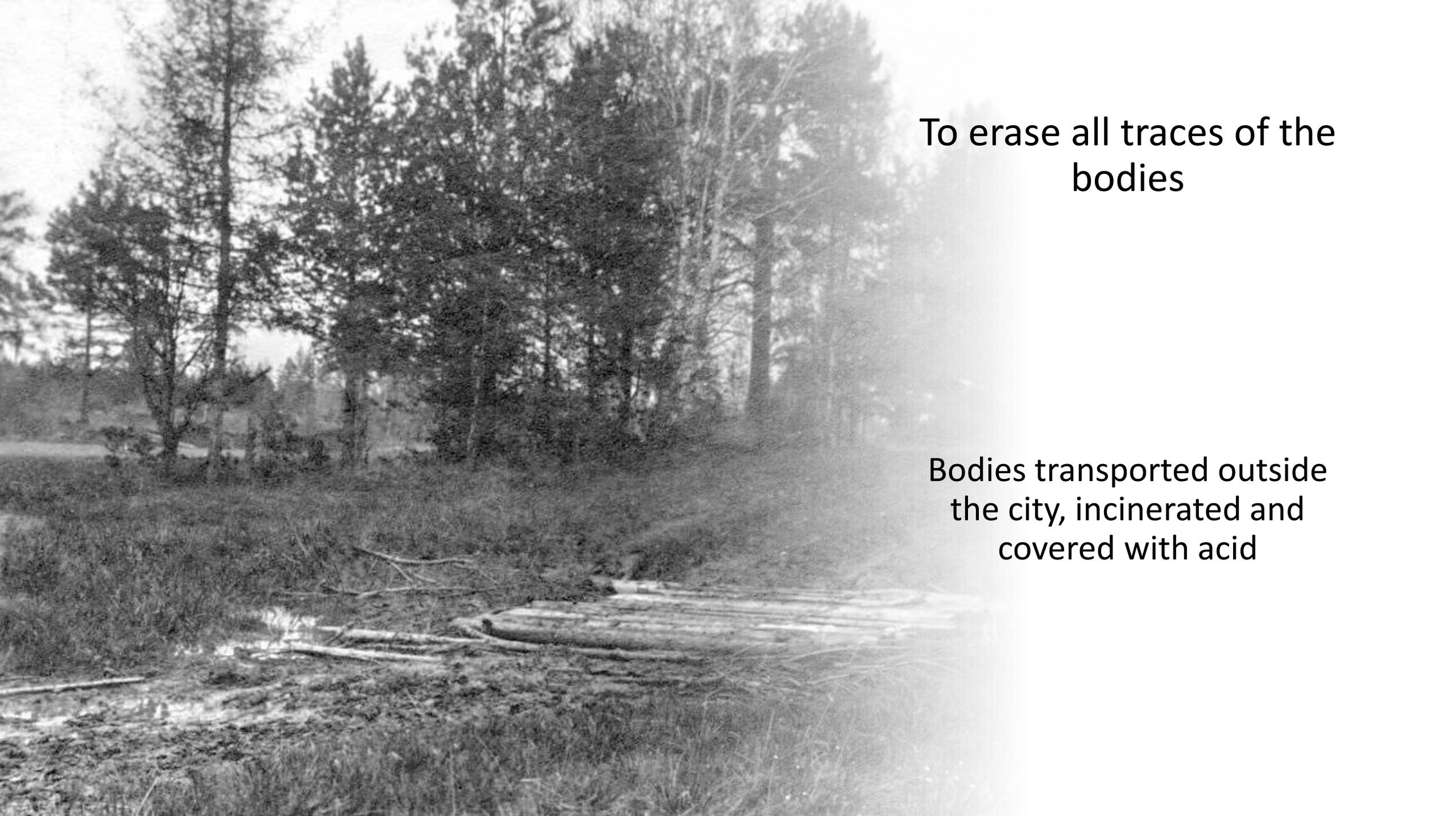
A brutal change of the guards

Yakov Yurovsky: high ranking member of the **Cheka** (secret police)

17 July 1918 (2am): cable from Lenin authorizing the elimination of the imperial family







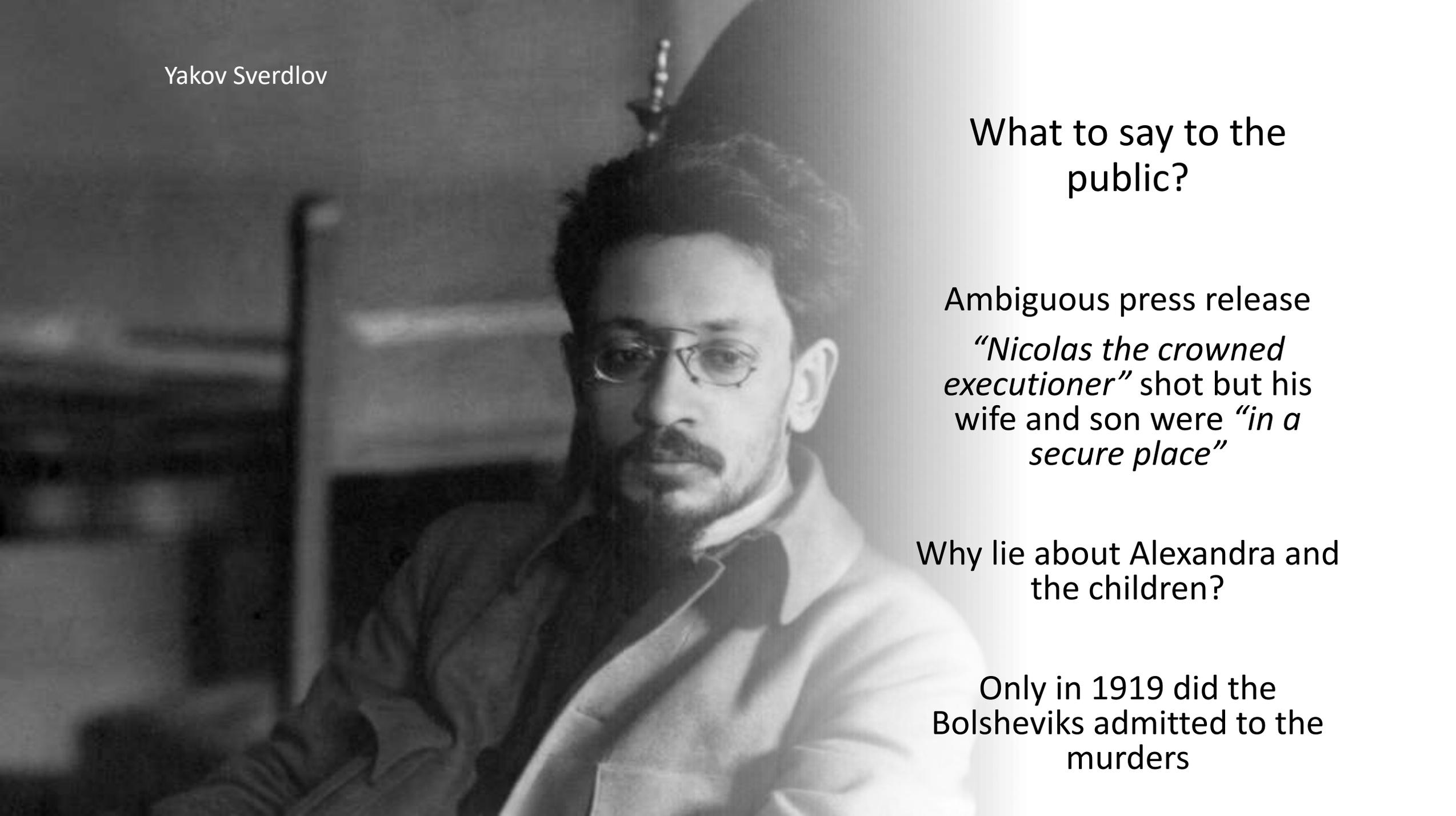
To erase all traces of the
bodies

Bodies transported outside
the city, incinerated and
covered with acid

Eliminating as many members of
the Romanov family as possible

Grand Duke Michael





Yakov Sverdlov

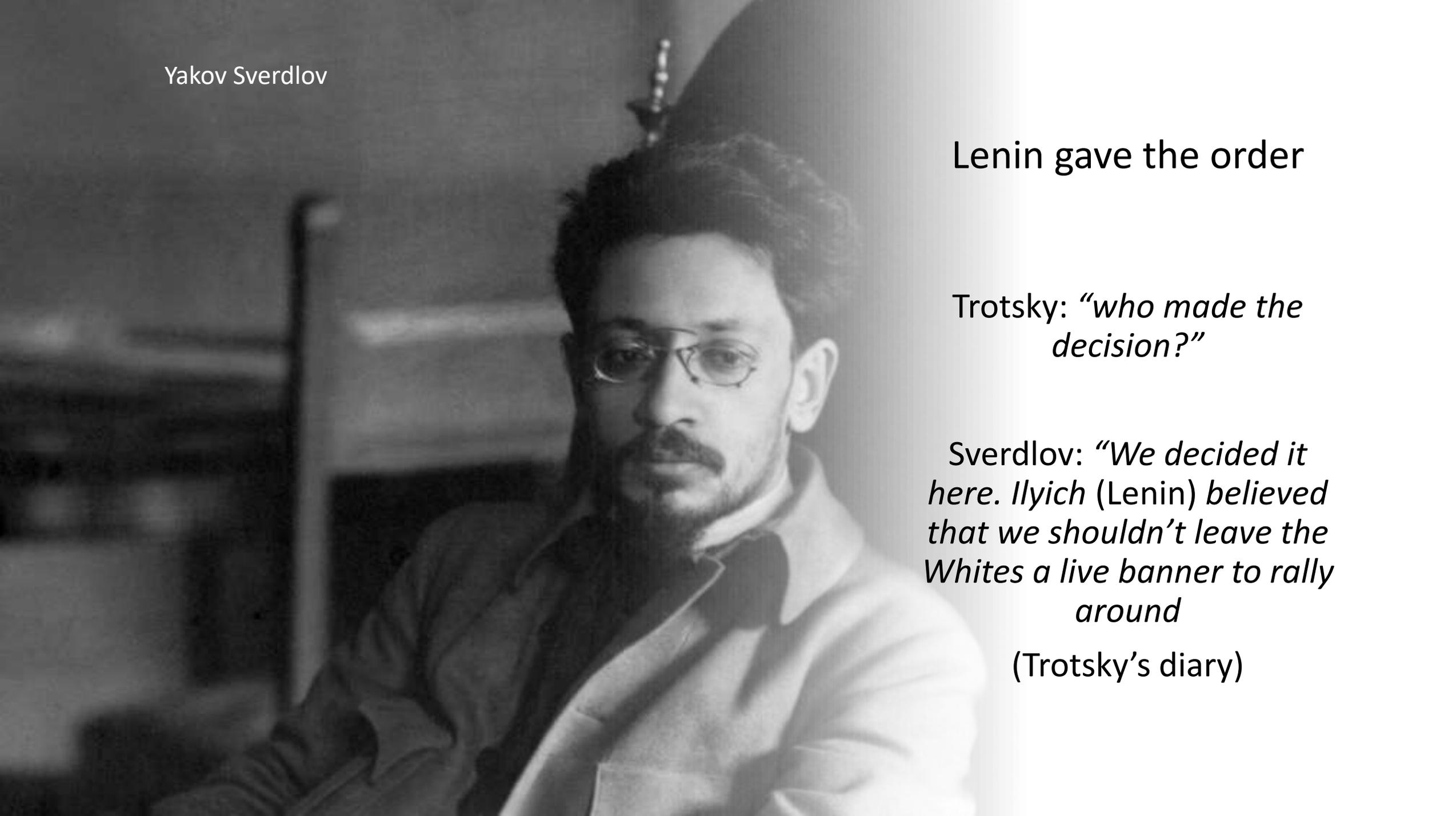
What to say to the public?

Ambiguous press release

“Nicolas the crowned executioner” shot but his wife and son were *“in a secure place”*

Why lie about Alexandra and the children?

Only in 1919 did the Bolsheviks admitted to the murders



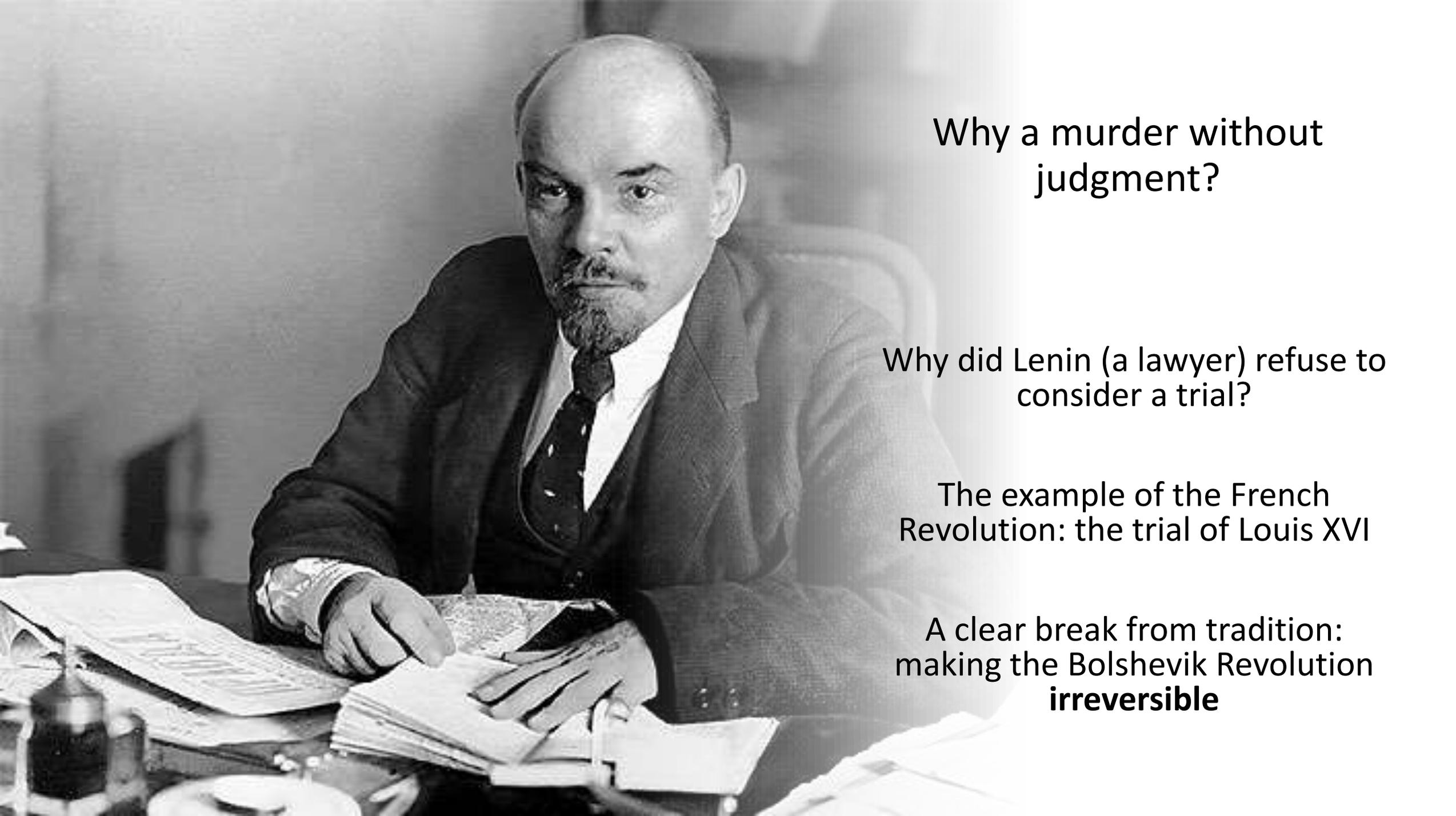
Yakov Sverdlov

Lenin gave the order

Trotsky: *“who made the decision?”*

Sverdlov: *“We decided it here. Ilyich (Lenin) believed that we shouldn’t leave the Whites a live banner to rally around*

(Trotsky’s diary)



Why a murder without judgment?

Why did Lenin (a lawyer) refuse to consider a trial?

The example of the French Revolution: the trial of Louis XVI

A clear break from tradition: making the Bolshevik Revolution **irreversible**

25 July

Yekaterinburg taken by the Whites

What happened to Nicolas II and his family?

An inquiry

Conclusions: the imperial family was NOT “transferred” but murdered



British Secret Services

Same conclusions

George V able to inform
his aunt Victoria
(Alexandra's sister) of the
murders





Sir Charles Eliot

Doubts

British Consul in Siberia: a 15
page report

A mysterious train left
Yekaterinburg the night of
July 17?



1918: raging civil war

Unstable military situation

The Bolsheviks: retaking Yekaterinburg, a priority



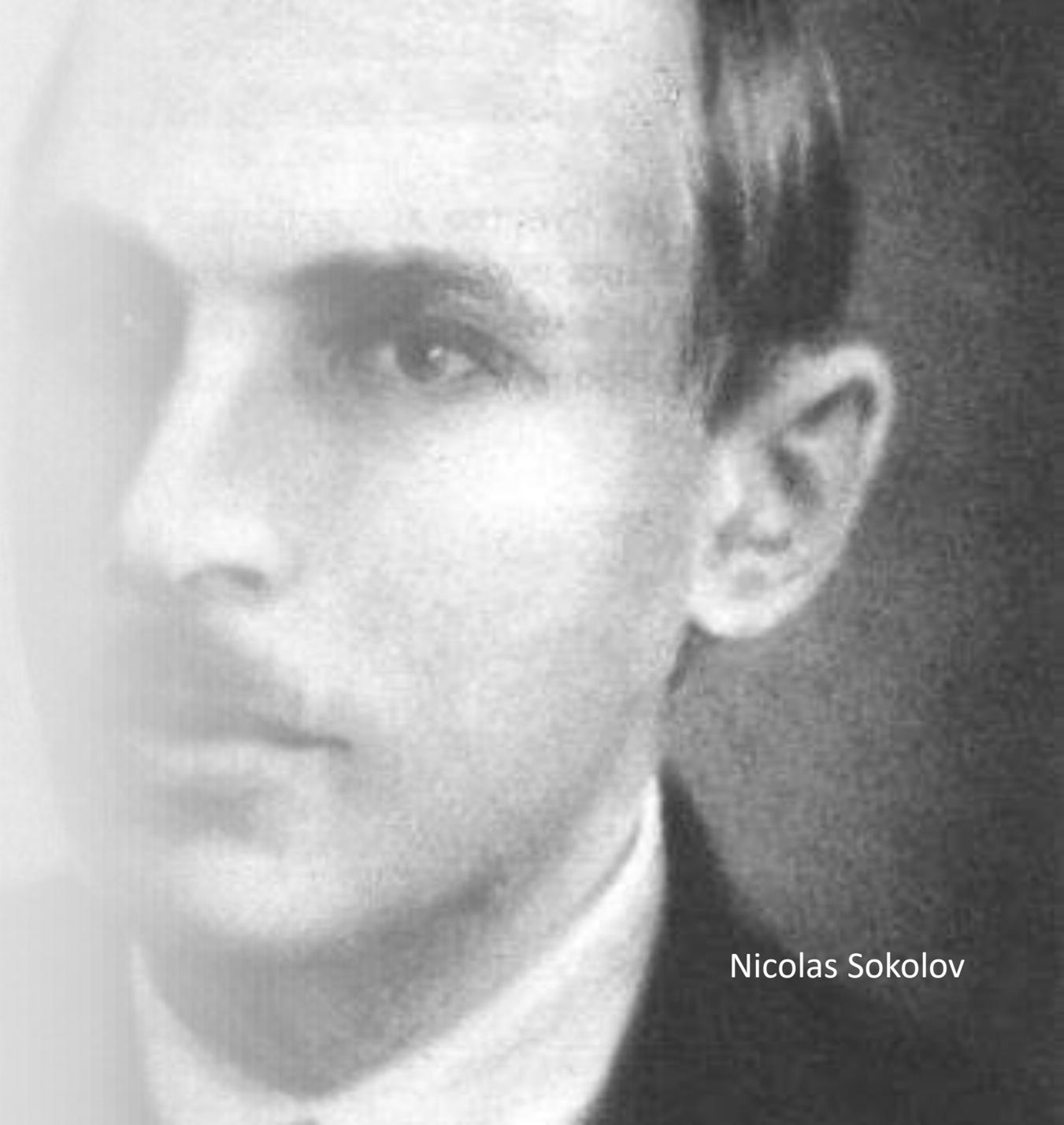
January 1919

A new (monarchist) judge

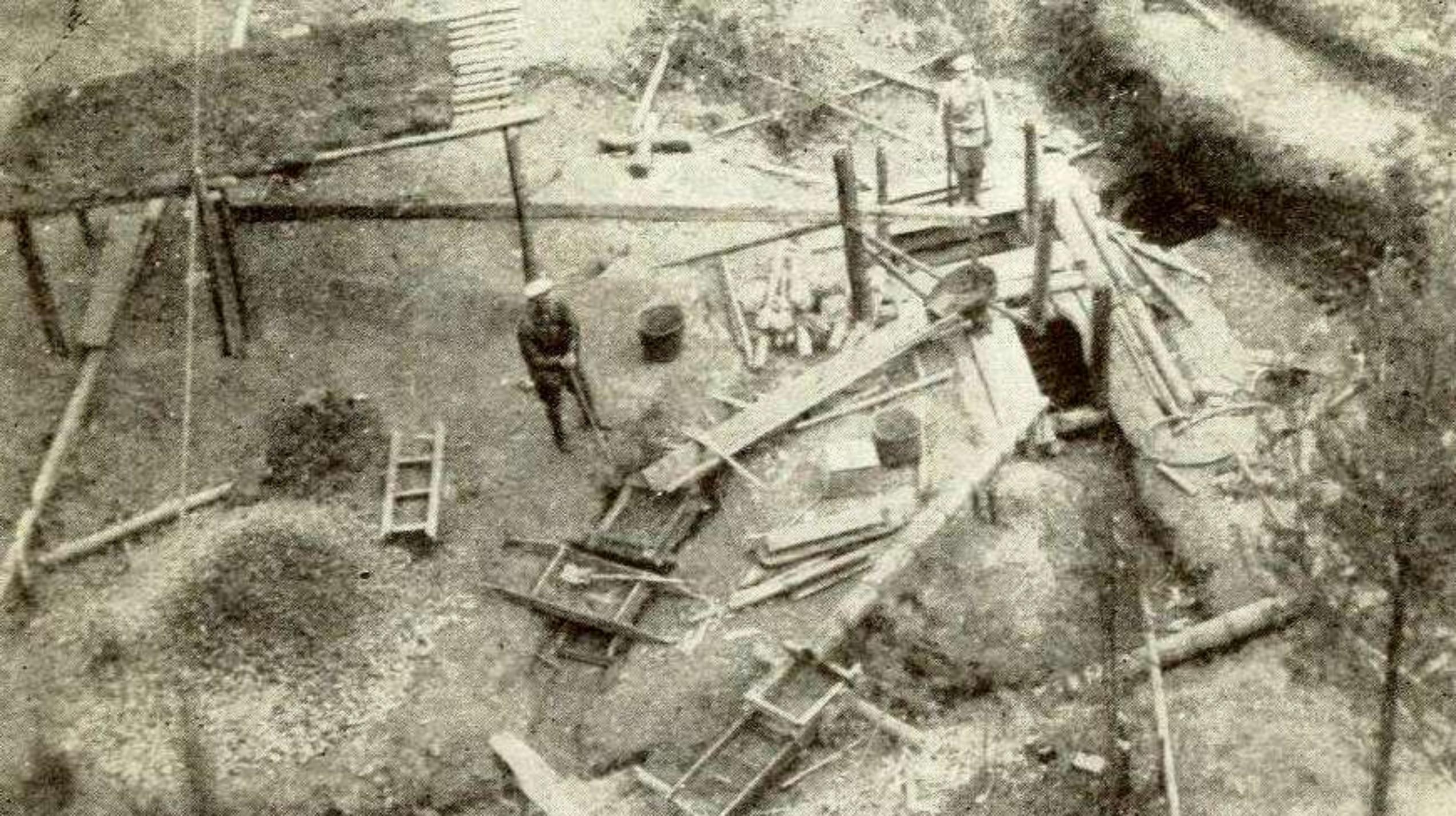
Contradictory information

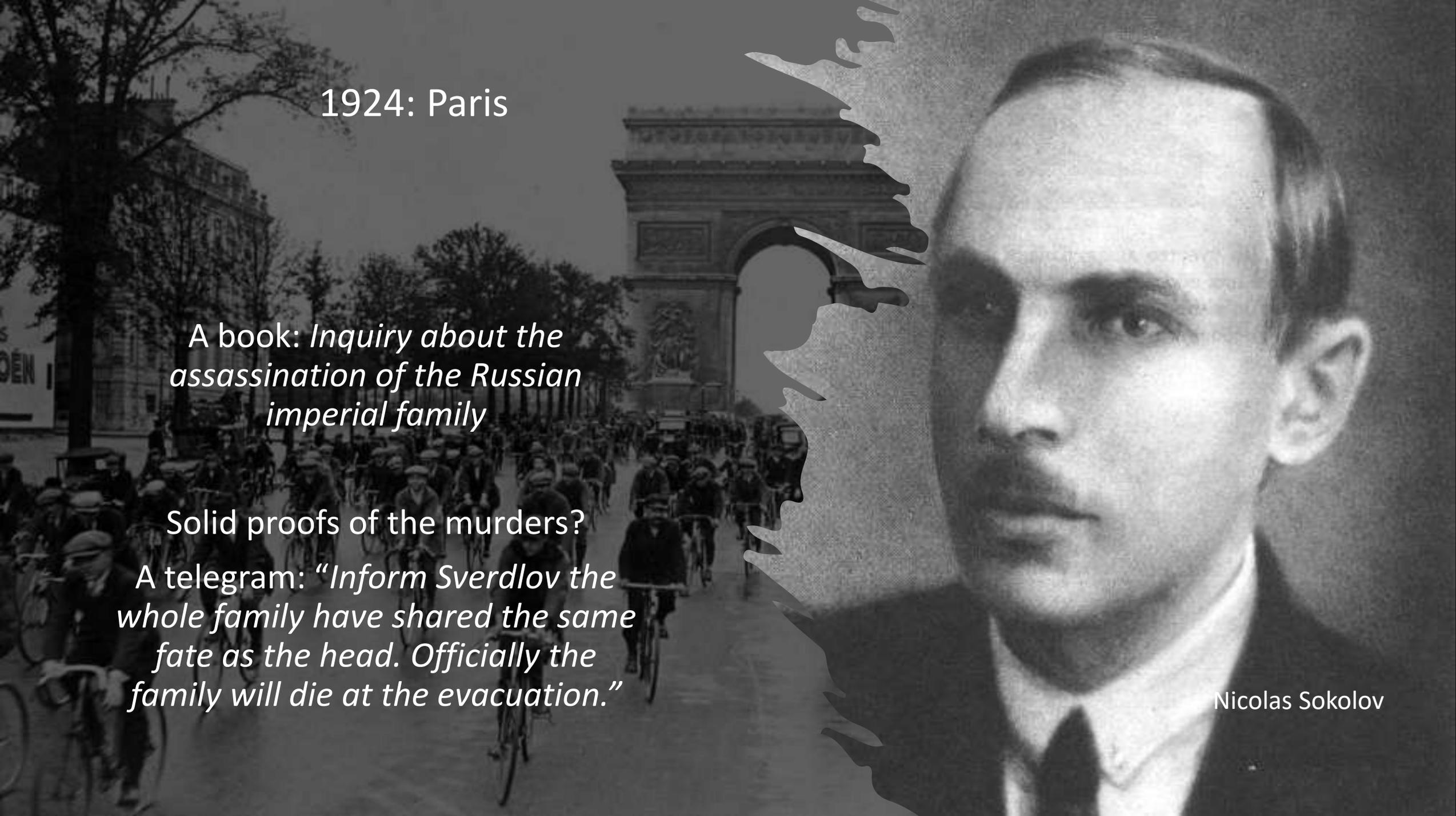
No formal proof (bodies
still missing)

July 1919: the Bolsheviks
back in Yekaterinburg



Nicolas Sokolov





1924: Paris

A book: *Inquiry about the assassination of the Russian imperial family*

Solid proofs of the murders?

A telegram: *“Inform Sverdlov the whole family have shared the same fate as the head. Officially the family will die at the evacuation.”*

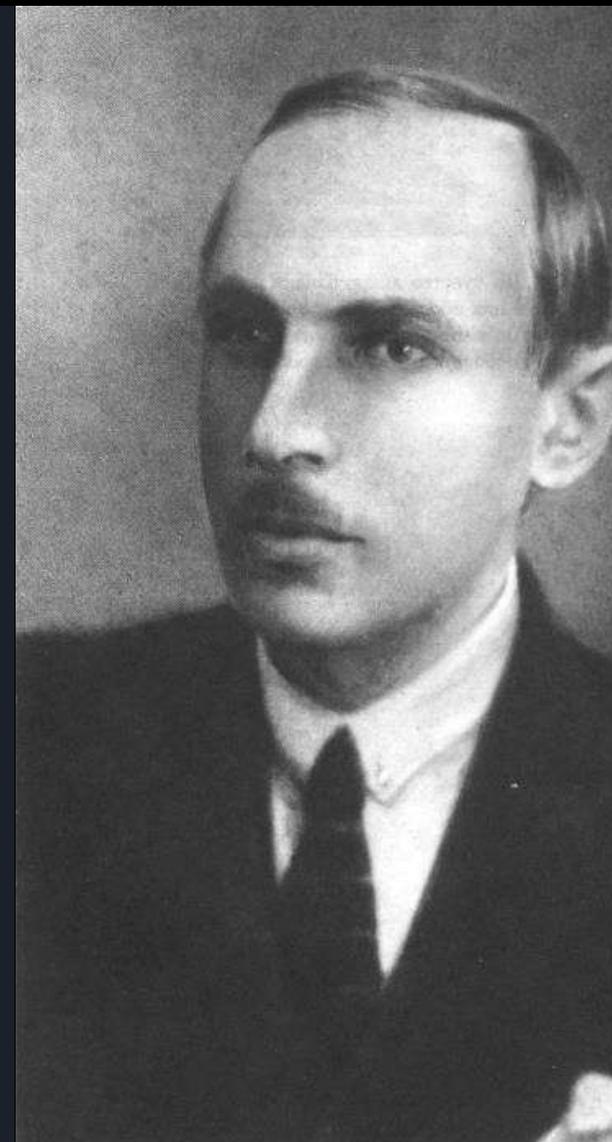
Nicolas Sokolov



Detailed testimonies

Pavel Medvedev (one of the guards at the Ipatiev House)

The murders: the official version?

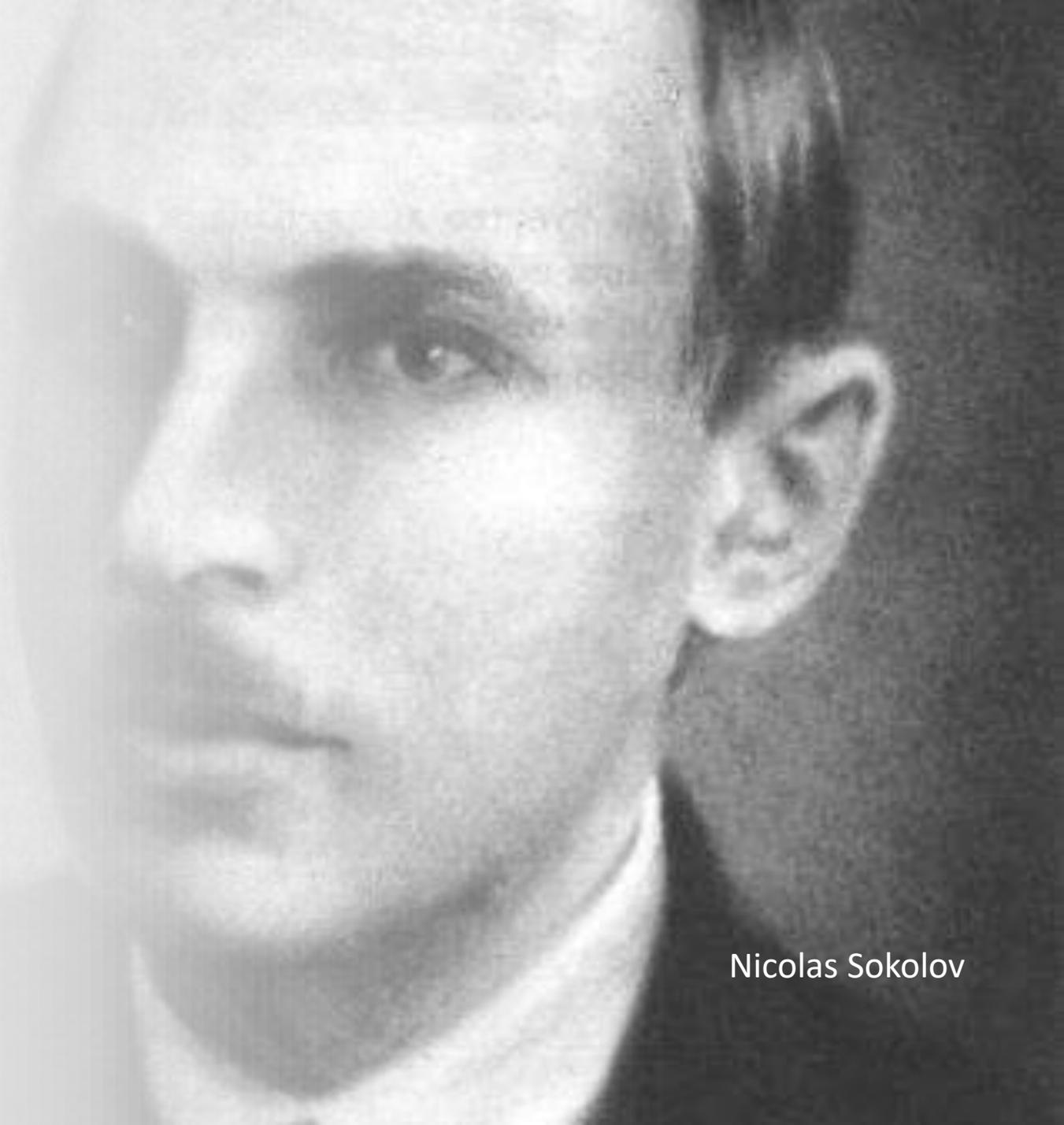




1976

The initial report found:
significant discrepancies

Conclusions: Nicolas
Sokolov not so convinced
the whole family was
murdered?



Nicolas Sokolov



Rumors, usurpers & liars

A common occurrence in
Russia

Fake “Dmitri” (late 16th
century)

Fake “Alexis”, Fake Grand
Duchesses



The case of **Anna Anderson**

17 February 1920: a
mysterious suicide attempt
in Berlin

Grand-Duchess Anastasia
saved miraculously from the
Ipatiev House?



An impostor?

The Romanov "treasure"

Pierre Gilliard

Fame in the U.S.

Invited by Grand Duchess Xenia (Nicolas II's first cousin)

1927: Anna Anderson identified as **Franziska Schanzkowska** (Polish worker)

October 1928: most surviving members of the imperial family refused to acknowledge Anna Anderson as Anastasia





1985

Renewed interest for the fate
of the Romanovs



17 July 1998

The official funeral of Nicholas II
and his family in St. Petersburg

